QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL

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DAIRY CONFERENCE.

Advisory Board Appointed.

Organisation of the Agricultural Industry.

"That an advisory board for the dairying industry of Queensland be appointed by this Conference ; such board to have a provisional tenure of office not exceeding one year pending the constitution of a general council of agriculture, district councils, and local producers' associations.

"That the objects of the advisory board include the following :—

(a) To consider the question of investigating, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Stock, the problems relating to the dairying industry of this State ;

(b) To investigate the methods of production, manufacture, marketing, storage, and distribution of dairy produce ;

(c) To consider the question of the establishment of pools for dairy produce ;

(d) To consider the question of the co-ordination of the activities of existing co-operative companies ;

(e) To consider the question of the improvement of the productiveness of the individual dairy herds by general application of systematic herd testing or any other efficacious means ;

(f) To consider the question of the purchase of all factory and farm requisites through co-operative channels ;

(g) To consider the question of fodder conservation ;

(h) To consider the question of extending the benefits of the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Advances to Farmers Act, or any other means for the establishment of rural credit.

"That this Conference approves of the scheme of organisation outlined by the Premier, and is of opinion that necessary action be taken to bring the scheme into operation at once."

The foregoing resolutions were unanimously adopted on 24th March at one of the most important gatherings of primary producers in the history of the State.

A NOTABLE GATHERING.

A conference of representatives of dairying interests within the State, convened by the Premier, the Hon. E. G. Theodore, was held in the Land Court Room, Executive Building, Brisbane, on 24th March, 1922.

The gathering was one of the most notable in the history of Queensland, and its decisions are of first importance to all engaged in rural pursuits. Following is a full report of the Conference.

The proceedings were opened by His Excellency the Governor, the Right Hon. Sir Matthew Nathan, G.C.M.G. The Minister for Agriculture (the Hon. W. N. Gillies, M.L.A.) presided, and with him on the platform was the Premier (Hon. E. G. Theodore, M.L.A.).

The delegates and interests represented were—

Present:

Secretary for Agriculture (Hon. W. N. GILLIES, M.L.A.), Chairman.
The Premier (Hon. E. G. THEODORE, M.L.A.)

BUTTER FACTORIES.

Atherton Tableland Co-operative Butter Company	SLOAN, W. J.
Bundaberg Co-operative Dairy Company	GREATHEAD, J.
	CROWE, G. F.
Caboolture Co-operative Dairy Company	DOBSON, F. J.
	POPE, W. E.
Central Queensland Co-operative Dairy Co., Rockhampton	PRITCHARD, E. G.
Central Queensland Dairymen's Co-operative Company	JOHNSON, R.
	MCDONALD, G. E.
Chinchilla Co-operative Dairying Company	HOLMES, W.
	WARREN, H. T.
Dawson Valley Co-operative Dairy Company	PATERSON, S. D.
	LEPLA, L.
Downs Co-operative Dairy Company	MITCHELL, F. A.
	PURCELL, J.
	MORWOOD, H.
Esk Co-operative Dairy Company	GRAHAM, G.
	RUTKIN, F.
Farmers and Producers' Co-operative Dairy Company, Rockhampton	CONAGHAN, T.
Goombungee Co-operative Dairy Company	DASCOMBE, LEWIS
Killarney Co-operative Dairy Company	PETERSEN, C.
Kin Kin Co-operative Dairy Company	HAPGOOD, W. C.
	MCINTYRE, W. L.
Logan and Albert Co-operative Dairy Company	PLUNKETT, T. FLOOD
	HOPKINS, JOS.
Maleny Co-operative Dairy Company	HOLTON, A.
	BRYCE, CHAS.
	ALCORN, J.
Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Company	NOAKES, G. R.
	DEAN, J. E.
	WICKAN, J. S.
Nanango Co-operative Dairy Company	PERRETT, CHAS. E.
Oakey District Co-operative Dairy Company	ARCHIBALD, J.
	GRAY, A. C.
	DEARLING, —.
Port Curtis Co-operative Dairy Company	KESSELL, J. H.
Queensland Farmers' Co-operative Dairy Company, Booval	RYAN, D.
	PENDER, J.
	STEVENS, H. M.
Rockhampton District Co-operative Dairy Company	FISHER, A. E.
	NUTTALL, J. W.
Roma Co-operative Dairy Company	NIND, L. W.
	HEMBROW, R.
South Burnett Co-operative Dairy Company	WITTON, E. W.
	HARTLEY, W. S.

South Queensland Co-operative Dairy Company	WINNETT, W. G.
Stanley River Co-operative Dairy Company	CARSELDINE, H.
	BATEMAN, CHAS.
Terrors Creek and Samson Vale Co-operative Dairy Co.	RUDD, E.
Warwick Co-operative Butter and Dairy Company	BUCKLEY, JAS.
Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Company	BETTS, T. E.
	PARKYN, R. B.

CHEESE FACTORIES.

Biddeston Co-operative Dairy Company	ANDERSON, H. T.
	LITTLE, W. H.
Cambooya Dairy Company	BUCHANAN, S. B.
	BERRY, JAMES
Cooranga North Co-operative Cheese Company	HOPPER, N. C.
Dundarrah Co-operative Cheese Company	MARSHALL, JOHN
Emu Creek Co-operative Dairy Company	THOMAS, C.
Felton Co-operative Dairy Company, Limited	FITZGERALD, E.
	GAULD, F.
Gowrie Junction Cheese Factory	HITCHCOCK, C. M.
Greenmount Dairy Company	BERMINGHAM, P. W.
	STRICKLAND, P. L.
Irongate Co-operative Dairy Company	BRADY, T.
Kaimkillenbun Co-operative Cheese Company	SKERMAN, P. J.
Kooroongarra Co-operative Dairy Company	WHITE, P.
	PATERSON, S. L.
Lauriston Co-operative Dairy Company	STEHN, F. G.
Leyburn Dairy Company	KIRBY, RICHARD D.
MacLagan Valley Co-operative Dairy Company	COLE, E.
	REED, J.
Malling Creek Co-operative Factory	HANSEN, M. P.
Memerambi Co-operative Cheese Company	SHAILER, W.
Mount Sibley Co-operative Dairy Company	BELLINGHAM, WM. R.
	PETERS, C.
Mount Tyson Farmers' Co-operative Dairy Company	STOWER, R. J.
	MCINTYRE, C.
	RUHLE, P.
Pittsworth Dairy Company	KEEFER, H.
Rocky Creek Co-operative Dairy Company	FRENCH, T.
	MCCULLOUGH, R.
Rodger's Creek Cheese Factory	PENTECOST, H. L.
Southbrook Co-operative Dairy Company	O'SHEA, D. G.
Sugarloaf Co-operative Dairy Company	FREYBERG, H.
Tummaville Co-operative Dairy Company	CROCKER, RICHARD
Yargullen Co-operative Dairy Company	PETERS, E.

GENERAL.

Australian Dairy Farmers' Association	POWER, P. K.
Australian Dairymen's Association	DOUGLAS, A. S.
Brisbane Butter Pool	KELSO, W.
Cheese Manufacturers' Association	PURCELL, W.
Commonwealth Dairy Produce Pool Committee	GALBRAITH, A. C.
Drillham	NIXON, A.
Farmers' Alliance	WIGHT, R.
Fassifern District Council (Q.F.U.)	SHAW, T.
Gin Gin Dairymen's Association	CROMARTY, J. F.
Gunalda	CURRANT, W. G.
"Livestock Bulletin"	MAYNARD, R. S.
Maroon	ROSE, S.
Pinelands, *via* Crow's Nest	ADAMS, J. S.
"Producers' Review"	MCANALLY, H.
Queensland Cheese Manufacturers' Association	TURRELL, E.
Queensland Co-operative Dairy Companies' Association	TOD, J. T.
	HARRIS, W. T.
Queensland Farmers' Union	AUSTIN, J. A.
Standard Dairy Company (Condensed Milk)	STAFFORD, E.
Toogoolawah Dairymen's Association	NOTT, F. L., M.L.A.
Wyreema Milk Suppliers' Association	BURTON, G.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN said he had great pleasure in calling on His Excellency the Governor to welcome the delegates and formally open that important Conference.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, G.C.M.G.), who, on rising, was received with applause, said he had had the pleasure of meeting some of the delegates before, but on occasions less important than the present one when they were going to discuss what seemed to him to be the greatest factor in the future of Queensland. The problem that loomed above all others in Australia was how to obtain a large virile population, and the solution of that problem he believed to be in agriculture. Mining, other than coal and iron, was never more than temporary, and though there might be—indeed, he hoped there would be—a revival in the mining of Queensland, the permanent prosperity of the country must have another basis. A very large proportion of this country was fit for grazing but not for agriculture: therefore they must keep their wool trade and must get back their beef trade. In the fullness of time, no doubt, they should have secondary industries, but there was little likelihood of their being able to compete with the products of those industries in the markets of the world, and they would have to succeed rather than to precede any increase in population. It was increased agriculture alone that could bring about closer settlement on which the safety and wellbeing of Australia must depend. There was only one way in which such increase could be brought about, and that was by the work of farming being made profitable to the farmer. (Hear, hear!) Undoubtedly he derived profit in body and character from living the most healthy of lives, but he must have something more than that. He must be able to gain from the hard work of his life sufficient to enable him to establish a good home, to bring up a long family as they should be brought up, and to secure for himself in old age, if not affluence, at any rate reasonable comfort and wellbeing. (Hear, hear!)

The Farmer's Business.

The farmer's business, as, indeed, most other businesses that were not wage-earning, was of a speculative nature. In agriculture that element was introduced mainly by the waywardness of Nature, but with knowledge and industry provision could be made to minimise if not to remove the effects of drought, floods, pests, and diseases. This had to be done largely by the efforts of the individual farmers; but there were other elements of uncertainty that could be got over, and of success that could be achieved by the farmers working together. Co-operation could reduce the difficulties arising from fluctuations of particular markets and keep down the charges which accumulated between the cow and the counter, the field and the factory. It could

improve produce and so heighten its value; and it could improve the producers' lives and so heighten their enjoyment of life. The Premier would explain the lines on which those matters would be discussed. All he (His Excellency) could do was to appeal to those present to make the discussion as free, frank, and full as possible, so that it might be fruitful. He was sure that the Government wished them to speak out their minds in all matters bearing directly on the subject before them. They wanted to know the difficulties of the farmers, not for polemical purposes but with a view to seeing how they could be overcome, and the delegates present, in their turn, should each put forward his case, not so much with a desire to make points in the argument as to arrive at definite conclusions of which a practical trial could be made. That would be a great day if it led to some betterment in the lot of the man on the land and so to new men going on to the land, taking advantage of natural conditions that were as favourable to farming as any in the world. He had great pleasure in welcoming those present and in declaring the Conference to be open. (Continued applause.)

Vote of Thanks to His Excellency.

The CHAIRMAN asked those present to carry a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency for that very fine speech of his and piece of good advice. He was reminded while His Excellency was speaking of the day when he met His Excellency when he landed in Queensland. On that occasion he, as Minister for Agriculture, felt a little bit disappointed, because in His Excellency's first speech at Parliament House he expressed regret that he did not possess the great knowledge of agriculture that his predecessors had possessed. It was not long, however, before he learned that not only did His Excellency possess that knowledge of agriculture, but that he was more sympathetic towards and more desirous of benefiting agriculture than any of his predecessors had been, and therefore he asked the delegates to carry a hearty and cordial vote of thanks for His Excellency's speech.

(Carried with acclamation.)

THE POSITION OF THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

Address by the Minister for Agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. W. N. Gillies): As Chairman of the Conference he was not going to take up very much of their time, although there were many things about which he would like to talk to them. First of all, he would like to apologise for the hurried nature of the summons to the Conference. Unfortunately, the furthest outposts of dairying in Queensland were not able to be represented at the Conference—such as his own electorate, the Atherton Tableland, which was an important dairying centre now and capable of great expansion—because of the shortness of time and the distance away from Brisbane. However, on looking round the room he thought the gathering was fairly representative of the industry. He saw some of the great pioneers of the co-operative movement before him, and he was sure that after all their work they could exclaim with the late Cecil Rhodes, who, on his deathbed, said, "So little done; so much to be accomplished." At that gathering they might very well "Let the dead past bury its dead" and look to the future, but, in the words of the poet, "Act in the living present." That was the great concern—the living present. Each delegate had received a copy of the agenda paper and some of the resolutions that were to be submitted to the Conference, and those resolutions he would like them to look carefully through, because the matter was entirely in their own

hands. That Conference was an important one. It was the first of a series of Conferences that were to be held in connection with all branches of the agricultural industry.

Necessity for Immediate Action.

The reason for calling the Dairy Conference so hurriedly was because of the unfortunate position the industry found itself in at the present time, and the Government wanted to take some immediate action that would benefit the industry. However, his advice was to be certain that anything that was settled was settled in the right way. Any immediate gain that was not right was not likely to be good to the industry. The industry was a great one, and capable of great expansion, and the foundations they laid to-day should be on a solid and lasting basis. As one great poet had said, "Nothing is ever settled unless it is settled right." Unless they settled their questions right they would come up again. He hoped that they would be able to lay down the basis of a system which would be of lasting benefit to the great dairying industry. He wished to read the wire which had been sent out convening the Conference. If the meeting was not representative, as he had just said, the blame could hardly be attached to any one, because the time was so short, and the Government were urged to call the Conference straightaway, so as to try and solve some of the problems in the dairying industry. The wire, which had been sent out to all butter and cheese factories and condenseries in the State, read—

> "You are invited to send two representatives your company one to be a supplier to meet Premier and myself at Land Court Room Executive Buildings Brisbane Friday 24th March, 10 a.m., discuss better organisation of dairying industry with object improving producers' position. Department pays railway fares. Please inform Under Secretary early representatives' names."

A paragraph was also inserted in the Press inviting representatives from all recognised dairying associations. In response to that invitation there was a fairly representative gathering present.

A Few Facts and Figures.

He thought he might be permitted, before calling on the Premier to address the Conference on the general policy of the Government, to give a few facts and figures regarding the dairying industry, which would be of benefit not only to the industry itself but to the general public, as showing the importance of the industry at the present time. The dairying industry in Queensland might be said to be about 25 years of age, as it was about 25 years since the industry took a real start in Queensland. In 1895 there were manufactured in Queensland 3¾ million lb. of butter, in 1910 31¼ million lb. of butter, and in 1920 40¾ million lb. of butter. The production of cheese during the same years amounted to 2 million lb., 4 million lb. and 11½ million lb. respectively. During last year there were manufactured in Queensland 4½ million lb. condensed milk. That showed the strides that had been made in the dairying industry in a quarter of a century. During the last three years 67½ per cent. of the butter and 75 per cent. of the cheese manufactured in Queensland were consumed in Australia, showing the importance of the industry to Australia, and that the industry at the present time largely depended on the Australian public for a market. He sincerely hoped that the dependence of the industry on the Australian public for a market would be increased instead of decreased—that the public would come to Australia to consume the butter, instead of it having to be sent overseas. With regard

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to butter, last year Queensland exported 654,623 boxes of butter and New South Wales 644,683 boxes, showing that last year Queensland exported more than New South Wales. Victoria exported 727,707 boxes of butter last year, being slightly in the lead as regards Queensland, but it should be borne in mind that Queensland supplied the Southern States in the winter months with their local requirements. If a deduction were made on that account, he thought it would be shown that Queensland was the biggest exporting State with regard to butter. The value of the industry to-day was approximately 6½ millions sterling, showing that the great dairying industry, with all its drawbacks, disadvantages, and handicaps, was chasing the sugar industry very closely. While it must be recognised that the industry has made phenomenal strides within the early years of its history, it is also manifestly plain that the avenues for further expansion are enormous, and the possibilities are that greater progress will be made in the immediate future than has been achieved during former years.

Better Organisation and Capable Control.

Better organisation and a more capable control and management of the industry by those directly concerned would result not only in the stabilisation of the industry as it exists to-day, but it would provide the foundation for the successful development of the industry upon many thousands of acres of suitable lands, which, so far, have not been utilised for dairy purposes. The acreage of land suitable and available for dairying in Queensland is far in excess of that on offer by Southern States, where the industry has been longer established, and most of the suitable lands are at present in use for dairy purposes. In the Central district and on the Burnett watershed there are thousands of acres of land which are classed as being serviceable for dairying purposes, and, although two butter factories are supplied with cream raised upon the Atherton Tableland, there is room in the far North for great expansion if the price is right. But there are other channels whereby the production of dairy produce may be augmented, and the proceeds from the dairy farms appreciably enhanced, without adding to the acreage of the existing dairy farms or increasing numerically the dairy herds. The principal essentials are comprised in the better organisation of the industry from a producer's standpoint, leading up to:—

(*a*) Improvement in methods of farm management and animal husbandry.

(*b*) Improvement in productiveness of the individual dairy herds.

(*c*) Improvement in quality of dairy produce raised on the farm.

(*d*) Reducing to a minimum the difference between the price returned to the producer of dairy produce and that charged to the consumer.

Herd Testing.

The several matters I have mentioned lay bare a field for increased revenue for the producer that so far has not been exploited, but the matters enumerated are of vital importance, and are to be viewed as constituting the foundation of any effective scheme for the betterment of the industry as a whole, and by no other means is it possible for the individual dairy farmer to derive any substantial monetary benefit from the industry. Referring more specifically to the need for improvement in the productiveness of milch cows, he said the Agricultural Department had a system of herd testing which, in his opinion, was a good one. It might be benefited by the establishment of local herd testing societies, as in New South Wales, but he had his doubts about that. If the

Conference had any suggestions to make for improving the system of herd testing, they would be very pleased to get them. They had approximately 448,000 cows utilised for the production of milk in Queensland. Of that number 113,000 were returned as "dry." In all, more than 7,000 milch cows were submitted to a test last year, and calculated on a commercial butter basis the production of dairy cows in Queensland worked out at about 106 lb. per cow.

The Example of Denmark.

It may not be fair to point to Denmark's average of 400 lb., for they must realise that Denmark was a very old country, with marketing advantages over Queensland; but some disadvantages also—climatic conditions, cost of land, high rents, and so on. But while not pointing to Denmark as something which we can accomplish in Queensland, immediately it would be admitted by every practical farmer that Queensland must increase its average to more than 106 lb. per cow per annum. (Hear, hear!) That could be done with the co-operation of the farmers and the Department. He had never once said that the Department of Agriculture was doing half of what it should do; it should do a great deal more. Any suggestions made by that Conference of practical men would, if possible, be given effect to. Denmark 27 years ago started testing with a production of 122 lb. per cow, and they had now got from 122 lb. per cow to 400 lb. per cow. If they could increase their output in Queensland from 106 lb. per cow to 212 lb. per cow in a few years, they could imagine the effect it would have on the industry and on their banking accounts. He hoped the time would come when, instead of the Department having to enforce regulations which some of the farmers considered objectionable with regard to dairy premises, the united body of dairy farmers throughout Queensland would be able to tell the Department, through their Central Advisory Board, what they wanted, and see that such regulations were properly enforced. That was the position in Denmark. There was no need for the State to do those things if the farmers would do them themselves.

He wanted them to take particular notice of what the Premier said, and he would suggest that, after the Premier had finished his speech, there should be a limitation of time in regard to speeches, so as to secure expedition of business, while not desiring to curtail debate. He did not care if they were here for a week if they were doing good business. (Applause.)

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

The PREMIER, who was received with applause, said it was not his intention that morning to outline a party political programme. They wanted to keep the conference as free as possible from party bias or party entanglements. The Government wanted to express its attitude and opinions with regard to what was necessary to meet the situation affecting the agricultural industry, and especially the dairying industry in Queensland. Agriculture was almost stagnant at the present time, and had been so for years. There were literally millions of acres of land in Queensland suitable for cultivation, or, at any rate, close occupation by agriculturists, but there was no great development taking place at the present time. He was well aware that there were certain factors that had hampered agricultural development in recent years. The effect of the war taking away a large number of young men from the community and necessitating the concentration of effort upon other things for a number of years, had prevented any normal development or extension of agricultural and land settlement; and during the last two or three years trade depression and financial stringency, and the aftermath of the war in respect to credit deflation,

had had the effect of preventing the launching of any large scheme for the extension of agriculture. These facts had to be recognised in order to thoroughly appreciate the present situation, but even allowing for all these factors it could not be denied that the agricultural industry was not on a satisfactory footing. The Government desired to see, as His Excellency had pointed out, a greatly increased virile population in Queensland, and the best way to get that was to get men to go on to the land and to increase wealth production to provide the means for the support of the additional population. (Hear, hear!) But it was not to be wondered at that land settlement was proceeding slowly when one realised the unsatisfactory conditions existing in the agricultural industry in Queensland. While men who were on the land considered themselves not sufficiently remunerated—while the people in rural districts considered themselves neglected, and there was a general atmosphere leading to the impression that there was no encouragement for a man to go on the land—there would be no great progress towards the extension of rural industries.

A Vital Necessity.

The Government had therefore recognised the vital necessity to this State of taking fully into account the problems facing the agricultural industry, and by giving intelligent consideration to those problems to endeavour to overcome them. He was not saying that the policy which the Government outlined was a policy which had been discovered by them alone. The Government did not wish to take all the credit for originating the proposals that would be placed before the Conference that day. For many years, others had recognised the necessity for similar action; but the time had arrived when the farmers—the men mostly concerned—were willing to accept Government co-operation and assistance, and were willing themselves to co-operate with the Government in endeavouring to solve the problems which were capable of solution. One of the difficulties which existed in connection with the agricultural industry—and in referring to agriculturists he was not confining it to the cultivators of the soil alone—but he was speaking of the industry in its broadest sense as embracing farmers, wheatgrowers, canegrowers, small graziers, and the whole body of general farmers in this State. One of the things that had militated against the solution of many problems relating to farming had been the lack of organisation amongst the farmers themselves. That lack of organisation—the lack of any common aim and the absence of any common objective had led to the chaotic condition which must necessarily follow when they had one body of farmers pulling against another body of farmers.

Absence of Organisation.

This absence of organisation had led to a condition of absolute disorganisation amongst the farmers in various parts of the State. He thought the situation was capable of being improved. So long as the farmers recognised the necessity of associating amongst themselves and using their combined force and power and intelligence, they could solve, or be the means of the solution of, many of the main problems that were facing the industry to-day. There was at present a certain degree of organisation. He wanted them to understand that he did not wish in any way to reflect on the organisations that existed amongst the farmers at present, but unhappily hitherto the organisation amongst the farmers had been the result of a desire to use the farmers as a party political force. That, of course, was fatal to the success of any organisation amongst the primary producers. (Hear, hear!) He had

recently outlined in a series of speeches below the Range and on the Downs what he thought might be accomplished by having an effective organisation amongst the farmers, controlled by the farmers, and free of any party entanglements whatever. (Hear, hear!)

The Case for Combination.

There should be an organisation amongst the farmers just the same as they found organisations amongst other sections of the community. They should have organisation amongst the farmers just as they had it amongst the wage-earners and other bodies. The merchants were organised through their various chambers of commerce; the employers and manufacturers were organised in their various associations; the bankers were organised, and also the shipowners—in fact, nearly every section was organised except the farmers themselves; and because of all this organisation elsewhere the farmer had to a large extent been left in the lurch. The necessity then arose that the farmer should organise for his own protection, in order to combat successfully the organisation that was in existence elsewhere. (Hear, hear!) Organisation was a *sine qua non* for the solution of many of the problems facing the agricultural industry in Queensland to-day. He had no doubt that the general remarks he made about the agriculturists in Queensland, and the need for organisation, applied with equal force to the agriculturists in other States, but in Queensland they were concerned with their own affairs first, and they had to solve the problem of organisation effectively and intelligently first, and then, as a result of solving the problems in Queensland, no doubt they would be emulated elsewhere. (Hear, hear!)

An Advisory Board.

He had read criticisms against an advisory board being established in Queensland, because it would apply to Queensland alone and would not affect the agriculturists in other States. It was no reason that they should refrain from taking action just because they had to confine their efforts to their own State. They must start somewhere. If they were able to prove what the effects of organisation and close co-operation were, then no doubt the other States would readily follow on the same lines and co-operate with them and the whole of their organisation would be made effective throughout the Commonwealth. There were a great many problems to be considered by the farmers and in the interests of the farmers in this State. These problems were more complex and in greater number than the problems facing any other industry in this State or in any other class of business. Such problems might be classified as social, economic, political, and educational. By political he did not mean party political. There were a lot of problems relating to the welfare of the farmers which required political attention apart from party politics. There were many matters relating to the farmers which required legislative enactment and administrative action, and it was in that sense that he referred to it as political. He did not suggest that the farmers should eschew all political action so far as their affairs were concerned. The farmers were interested politically in many matters such as the settlement of the Customs tariff. They were intensely interested in the details of the tariff; and they should be able to voice their opinions on the tariff and suchlike matters. And, of course, in their own party organisations the farmers should be able to enjoy as much freedom of action in party political matters as any other citizen, but in the organisation of the agricultural industry they should keep party politics out of it altogether. (Hear, hear!)

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Economic Problems.

The economic problems were those which, for instance, pertained to the grading and the standardisation of their products in order to meet with the improved marketing conditions. Then there was the question of manufacture of farm products into secondary products, the question of improved methods of production, and of cold storage. The price fluctuations and market fluctuations were matters that closely concerned the farmers and dairymen; so that it was necessary for them to have an organisation which was constantly studying these conditions, gathering accurate statistics, and watching the movements of prices on the oversea markets, and if they had that organisation they would be able to advise the farmers promptly and accurately on all these matters. Then there were such questions as pests, diseases, droughts, and such questions as water conservation, storage of fodder, and innumerable economic problems which arose in the every-day life of every man on the land. All these could be best dealt with by organisation. These things vitally concerned the man on the land. When they had their organisation complete they could employ experts for the benefit of the organisation. It would go a long way towards enabling the farmers, as a body, to formulate a workable policy to put before the Government to carry out. These were the economic phases of the question. He mentioned the political phase because 50 per cent. of the Acts passed dealt directly or indirectly with the man on the land. In passing that legislation the Government had no organisation at present that they could consult with with regard to the details of that legislation.

Beneficial Legislation.

They had passed Stock Acts, Pure Seed Acts, Registration of Stock Acts, Acts relating to co-operation and dealing with pools such as the Wheat Board and Cane Prices legislation, and legislation relating to the dairying side of the question. The Minister had already spoken of the inestimable advantage it would be to the Government as well as to the farmers themselves if they had an organisation which could deal impartially with all questions and furnish advice on legislative proposals. In this way a farmers' organisation would be of great value to the State. If the farmers had such an organisation, and they considered all these questions to submit to the Government, then they would be really responsible for framing the legislation and shaping the policy for the development of agriculture as an industry. Then there was the educational side. It struck him as anomalous that in a State like Queensland, which had to depend so much on the agricultural development of its lands, whose whole future was wrapped up with the development of agriculture, the men on the land themselves occupied a relatively inferior status in the community. This was because of the mistakes made by the farmers generally owing to their lack of proper organisation or of proper means of fully informing the public mind as to what is the relationship of the farmer as a unit in the social structure.

The Status of Farmers.

The farmer occupied a relatively inferior status to-day. At any rate, that was the general conception in the public mind. If they saw a cartoon of a farmer in the papers, he was generally depicted as some kind of horny-handed old hayseed who was incapable of thinking of anything but his plough, or whatever particular implement he happened to be using. It was because of that that the farmers' sons were gravitating towards the cities. The farmer's son did not want to think that the only career in life open to him was to become a cocky. (Laughter.) He appealed to them to see that organisation would improve the status of the farmer

and would remove that erroneous conception in the public mind. In England and America the farmer would never allow himself to be thought of as an inferior person. Certainly, he would not think himself inferior to a clerk or a quill driver, or to a man punching a typewriting machine. It was the same in Canada, and they could improve the status of the farmer in Queensland in the same way. If they improved the position of the man on the land they would make the agricultural population what it was destined to be—the backbone of the country. They did not want the man on the land to be looked on as something inferior in social status, and that was something the farmers could accomplish for themselves by a proper organisation of the agricultural industry and by the dissemination of educational propaganda give to the public a truer conception of the farmer's worth. In some cases, he did not say it applied to the men assembled before him that morning, but they knew of cases where the farmer was ground down and became a hard-working industrial slave. (Hear, hear!)

A VOICE: That is what he is.

Present Day Conditions.

The PREMIER: They knew in some cases that the man on the land toiled under conditions of absolute drudgery and hopelessness, but that should not be. In the early days of the colony it was necessary for the farmers to go out into the country miles away from railways and pioneer the land. In those days the farmers had no means of establishing settled communities with any degree of comfort. They were the real pioneers of the country, and all honour to them for the pioneering work which they had done. Although they could honour the pioneer of the past, because a man had to pioneer 50 years ago, there was no necessity to-day why the man on the land should be living a life of hardship and suffering from almost the same disabilities as the pioneers of old. There was no necessity for that, although, unfortunately, a majority of them were doing it. It might be said he was outlining some kind of a visionary policy to be attained some time in the distant future. His own belief was that if the farmers in Queensland were strongly organised—they constituted so large a class and so important a section in the community that, if they were strongly organised, and with the co-operation and sympathy of the Government, they could improve all those things relating to rural life.

The Oldest and Noblest Science.

He was referring to the necessity of attending to the educational functions of an organisation of that kind. It was necessary to carry on propaganda amongst the public in order to improve the status of the farmers and all farming industries. It was also necessary to have propaganda for other purposes—propaganda amongst the public in order, if necessary, to increase the consumption of farm products. That was an important matter. It was also necessary to remodel the State educational system in order to give more attention to agricultural education. That was a very important factor indeed. Agriculture was a science—the oldest and noblest science known—(hear, hear!)—but, unfortunately, speaking generally, it was not carried on as a science in Queensland. There were very few men—if he was correct in what he had been told, because he could not speak from personal experience in those matters—there were very few men who carried on farming operations on scientific lines in Queensland. It was necessary for them to take advantage of the discoveries of science and the experience of other countries, and apply them to agricultural production in this State.

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Agricultural Education.

But, in order to apply science, it was necessary to have a system of education. They could not expect a man who was born in a farming district and had lived on a farm all his life, and had no other tuition, to thoroughly understand the science of agriculture. It was necessary to have imparted to him the common experience of the whole world attained through a long series of years, and after patient research by experts. It was necessary to have that knowledge imparted to the youthful farmer in order that he might become a scientific farmer. The farmers could assist the Government a great deal through their organisations to improve the system of agricultural education—he did not know that he would be justified in calling the present limited kind of agricultural education that was carried on in Queensland a system of education at all, but it was possible to develop it; to have a course of secondary agricultural tuition linked up with the primary schools, and, if necessary, with the University, at which those men who decided upon an agricultural career could, in their early days, get the necessary scientific tuition. The delegates might think that he was dealing with topics that were really apart from the business of the Conference, and to some extent he had been, but he wanted to outline what he had in his mind in order that they would appreciate the sincerity of the Government in approaching that question.

Condition of the Dairying Industry.

It had been brought to the recognition of the Government lately that the dairying industry was not in a satisfactory condition. There were many factors contributing to the present deplorable situation, not the least important of those factors being fluctuation in market prices. Most of the factors that operated now adversely against the dairymen in this State could be overcome by intelligent consideration of the difficulties, and by the formation of a definite policy, and adherence to that policy by the farmers and by the Government. The industry itself must be stabilised. Prices, at any rate, must be stabilised; and he agreed heartily with what His Excellency said about the necessity of assuring to the producers in the agricultural industry a fair remuneration for their toil. (Hear, hear!) Every man at least was entitled to that. No man, at any rate, who had been, as he had been, largely interested in stabilising the conditions of industrial workers could contend against the most essential and indispensable worker in the community having his remuneration stabilised. (Hear, hear!) It was not outside the bounds of possibility for the dairyman, in conjunction with the Government, to bring about conditions that would lead to the stabilisation of prices in their industry. He did not say that could be got by the mere granting of a Government subsidy or anything of that kind. They had to look deeper; first of all for the cause, and then provide something more sound than any kind of spoon-feeding. (Hear, hear!) The solution was easily attainable. There had been a good deal of talk during the last few months—in fact some farmers' journals had ably advocated it during the last year or so, and they were entitled to due credit for the propaganda they had carried on in that connection—they had been advocating the establishment of what was more or less loosely known as an advisory board for the dairying industry. In that direction there was to be found a solution of many of the difficulties.

No Cut-and-Dried Plan.

The Government could not present to the Conference a cut-and-dried plan to solve all the problems and cure all the evils with which they were confronted. It would be useless their attempting that kind of thing, but he thought the

Conference itself could arrive at the decision to investigate many of the problems, and, by careful, patient, and business-like investigations, formulate a scheme to overcome those difficulties. It was, of course, putting the onus of the solution upon the industry itself—upon the men in the industry—but those in the industry would not complain of that. The delegates present and those whom they represented would not complain if the responsibility was placed on their shoulders of formulating a policy. He did not think anyone could complain so long as that opportunity was given to them and so long as they were assured, when the policy was formulated, that the authorities would do their part in carrying it out. (Hear, hear!)

A Tangible, Attainable Policy.

That was what Mr. Gillies and he had to offer them that day—the invitation to formulate a tangible, attainable policy, and the Government would assist them to carry it out. (Hear, hear!) There had been circulated amongst them a series of resolutions referring to the establishment of an advisory board. That was a practical step, and it was necessary, because there was no royal road to the solution of those problems. No matter how wise a man might be he could not stand there and formulate a proposal which was practical to adopt and which would solve all their difficulties. The problems were so complex, because so deep-rooted, that they wanted an advisory board of experienced men interested in the business thoroughly to consider the matter, sitting, if necessary, frequently and over a long period to formulate a policy for the Government, the Department, or the organisations of farmers and co-operative companies to put into operation. If they had such an advisory board, then they could arrive at some policy that could be applied. There had been a question of the formation of a pool. There was a diversity of opinion as to whether a Queensland pool would be effective. There was a lot of difference of opinion even as to whether an Australian pool would be effective. He did not pretend to be able to say whether a pool was the solution of any of the present marketing difficulties. That was why he wanted an advisory board. Let the advisory board consider that question together with all the other suggestions that might be made to such a board.

Better Co-ordination of Co-operative Companies.

There was the question of better co-ordination of the efforts of the various co-operative companies that were now established; the wisdom of amalgamating all those companies. Those were matters that the board, so long as the industry had full confidence in the board, could consider and formulate a policy upon. His own opinion was that they would never get the full beneficial effect of co-operation if it was carried on sporadically; if they had a co-operative company dealing with 20, 50, or 100 suppliers in one district acting independently of another co-operative company in the next district or some other co-operative company somewhere else, each dealing separately with the agents or exporters or shippers, and all of them working more or less uneconomically—on account of the smallness of their individual operations and the high administrative costs. They could not get a true solution of the marketing difficulties while co-operation was carried on in that loose way. They would have to go in for wholesale co-operation, and they had had experience of it in the kind of co-operation carried on during the war under the ægis of the Federal Government. Take the example when the whole of the wheat of Australia was managed co-operatively in the marketing of it when 100 or more exporting firms and operators were cut out and the thing

managed by the farmers through their own central board. They had an illustration of what could be done on the lines of extensive co-operation in the wheat pool which was carried on in Queensland.

A Delegate: A very good thing, too.

The Wheat Board.

The Premier: An excellent thing, too. Now, the Wheat Board started under somewhat disadvantageous conditions. It was hurriedly organised. It came late into the field. It was dealing with farmers who never before had dealt with co-operative effort of that kind, and they must admit—one must admit it candidly—that it made a great success of the business. (Hear, hear!) There was a Wheat Board consisting of five farmers, elected by the farmers themselves, and a chairman. They appointed their staff, settled their own policy, organised the necessary machinery, bought oversea freights, arranged charters, made agreements with the millers, and handled the whole business which was previously handled by large operators in Brisbane and elsewhere, and they managed it successfully. It was the largest wheat crop ever handled in Queensland, and the cost of handling that wheat crop by the farmers themselves was less per bushel than the cost by private enterprise in the previous years. Not only that, but the whole of the profit made in the handling of the wheat—the whole of the saving through more economical management—was returned to the farmers themselves. (Hear, hear!) This was done though they started out with practically no capital in the ordinary sense. It might be said they could not have colossal schemes of co-operation unless they had colossal funds to carry them through. The Wheat Board started without capital in the real sense of the term. Of course, they were able to capitalise the resources of the farmers supplying the wheat and they had a guarantee from the Government, but no actual cash. They started out with nothing, and in one year they carried out transactions aggregating more than £1,000,000. He did not say it would be as simple to accomplish the same result in connection with dairy produce or agricultural produce of other descriptions; but what had been done there and what had been done in the South during the war with large wheat pools, wool pools, metal pools, and other gigantic undertakings managed on behalf of the producers —what was done there in the elimination of large operators, traders, shippers, and exporters—the large body of men who come between the producers and the consumers—could be done in the dairying industry in Queensland. (Hear, hear!)

"Go Ahead."

If it was necessary—and, in his opinion it was necessary, but whether it was practicable was a different matter—to have co-operation to some extent in connection with dairying, so as to practically embrace the whole of the cheese, butter, and milk products, he would say "Go ahead." They had the resources, and they could accomplish it. The product was worth millions. The Secretary for Agriculture had referred to the year 1920. The value of dairy products in Queensland alone was estimated at £7,250,000 in 1920, and nearly £7,500,000 in 1921. That was the value of the products, but many of the operations connected with the marketing of those products were left in the hands of private speculators, traders, and exporters whose resources were limited to a few thousand pounds. The farmers, as a body, had to defer to the conditions laid down by a man or a company who had, perhaps, a capital of £100,000, while they themselves had millions of pounds of capital; they raised products worth—for consumption and export—£7,000,000 or £8,000,000. Why should the policy of the farmers be

dictated by a man who went into the business with a capital of, say, £10,000? They could entirely replace all kinds of agents and merchants and exporters, and even operators in London, if they would intelligently organise and work on a sufficiently large scale in Australia. (Hear, hear!) The general manager of the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society, Limited (Mr. C. E. D. Meares), dealing with the British butter market and its probable effect upon the Australian industry, said—

> "Co-operative men returning from London emphatically endorse the impression current over Australia in December-January last, that strong co-ordinated pressure from speculative agents was deliberately exercised to force values down. These tactics, used simultaneously with the inexperienced, misguided handling of the huge Imperial stocks, caused the breakdown of the London market during the period quoted."

The "bearing" operations of a few speculators in London broke down the overseas market, and literally resulted in millions of money being lost to Australian producers. Should they not be organised to protect themselves from those operations? (A Voice: Rather!) He believed they could be. He did not agree with the man who said the selling of butter was so complex and intricate a business that it could only be done by those who were well trained in London by private enterprise. He believed that the farmers' organisations here, employing proper experts, highly paid, if necessary, could manage their own business in London just as efficiently as anyone else. He did not say that they could dominate the London market. The percentage of sales over there might not be sufficiently high to enable them to do that, but they could protect themselves from speculative operations, such as Mr. Meares referred to. If the farmers would utilise the brains at their disposal and organise themselves, and employ experts, they would overcome many of these difficulties.

A Concrete Proposal.

The concrete proposals which the Chairman had to submit, which might perhaps be taken as early as possible, was the proposal for the formation of an advisory board. He strongly urged it himself. There was nothing to stand in the way of its appointment. It would be a costly thing to inaugurate, because, in getting the information required in establishing business and in formulating the policy, it would be necessary to employ the best brains they could get, and they would have to pay money to get those brains, but for the first twelve months the Government were prepared to defray the cost of it. (Hear, hear!) The scheme could be carried out. If it proved to be successful the farmers would subsequently have to take the responsibility of financing it in any modified form they liked. He would like to have an opportunity later on during the Conference to briefly outline a practical scheme of organisation of the farmers, which if the farmers endorsed could be put into operation. He would like to consult them about that, because the success of the scheme depended very largely on the men in the dairying industry. At the present time, they should speak freely and openly on matters they had to discuss. It did not matter whether they confined themselves to the suggestion for an advisory board or not; if they had grievances or difficulties in connection with the dairying industry, they could, of course, give voice to them. They would find the Government sympathetic, and willing, if possible, to assist them. (Hear, hear!) If they thought the scheme could be improved upon they should not hesitate to make suggestions, because the Government had called the Conference together, not to foist upon the farmers a cut-and-dried plan, but to consult them as to the best means of solving many of their difficulties. (Hear, hear!)

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A Frank and Free Discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: A series of motions had been circulated, and it was for the meeting to say whether those motions should be moved in their present form, or in some amended form, or whether they wished to move other motions. If there was no opposition, he would suggest that, while they wanted every one to speak frankly and not to curtail discussion, in order to get through the tremendous amount of business before them, the speeches of the mover and seconder of a motion be limited to ten minutes, and that of any other speaker to five minutes, with a right of reply by the mover for ten minutes, with any extension that the meeting may be inclined to give to any speaker.

ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. H. McANALLY (Jimbour) moved—

> That an advisory board for the dairying industry of Queensland be appointed by this Conference; such board to have a provisional tenure of office not exceeding one year pending the constitution of a general council of agriculture, district councils, and local producers' associations.

He believed that an advisory board was the one thing they required to put their industry on a better footing than it had been hitherto. As representing the "Producers' Review," he had made an extensive tour of the Burnett district, both in the South Burnett and along the western line as far as Dulacca, and also in the Central Downs, and had got the collective and individual opinion of large masses of producers. He found that there was a great need for reform in the conditions under which they were working, and the producers welcomed the promise of help from the Government. They must have better methods of production, manufacture, and transit, and also better methods of marketing and distribution. The main point which the producer was concerned about was the marketing of produce. The farmer could always expend plenty of energy at the producing end; but it was futile to ask men to buy a 60-guinea bull, if they were only to get 7d. or 8d. a lb. for their butter. A man was not concerned as to what channels these reforms came through provided he got them. The farmer was one of the most progressive of men. They believed that if the selling end was put on a sound basis, the farmer would not be wanting in making progress; it was at the selling end that they lost the grip, and it was there that they needed the cultivated man. They needed the advisory board here. They wanted a committee of business men, with a thoroughly trained manager and staff, in the interests of the dairymen. He referred to the fact that he happened to be a member of the Wheat Board last year. The Wheat Board was purely and simply an advisory committee. The Premier had told them that they started with nothing, and that was a truism. They had to borrow money to carry on until the negotiations with the Commonwealth Bank were brought to finality. So there need be no fear about bringing the advisory board into being and financing it forthwith. If they had an advisory board they would find themselves on a different plane to what they had been on hitherto.

The Road to Complete Co-operation.

As those present knew, they had travelled a long way on the road leading to co-operation. They still had a good deal to learn, and those who had learned should put it into operation. If they had an advisory board, then, no matter whether they were suppliers, directors, or anything else they would have nothing

to do with questions of finance, and they would not have to worry about where the money was coming from. If they took notice of the collapse of the butter market they would see that it was caused by the accumulation of the stocks of butter which were allowed to take place in the old country. If they had had an advisory board that accumulation of butter stocks need not have taken place. The same thing happened in connection with the wool market. There were 2,000,000 bales of wool stored up, including 900,000 bales held in Australia. They could see what the result would be if they allowed the whole of that wool to go on to the market. It would demoralise it. He grew a little wool himself, and he could give his own experience as to the value of having an advisory board in wool. At first he was offered 2s. 0¼d. for his fleece wool, and one year later he was offered 5d. per lb. for the same class of wool off the same sheep. "Bawra" was then formed, and he came under the regulations of "Bawra." By means of scientific selling, which simply meant putting the wool on the market as the market could absorb it, he got 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 5¾d. for the wool he was previously offered 5d. for. If they had an advisory board they could deal with their accumulation of stocks in dairy products in the same way. They could adopt scientific selling in the same way as "Bawra" had adopted it for wool. They had four avenues of production in Queensland—wheat, wool, butter, and meat. They knew where they were with regard to wheat and wool, but they did not know where they were so far as butter and meat were concerned. If they had a board they could apply their energies to dealing with the accumulation of stocks. He had much pleasure in moving the motion.

A VOICE: You cannot apply wool conditions to perishable articles.

Mr. McANALLY said he was quite aware of that. He did not say that they could keep butter for two years in cold storage and then put it on the market in as good condition as when it was first stored. Each industry must be controlled by its own conditions.

The London Market.

Mr. E. W. WITTON (Chairman of the South Burnett Co-operative Coy.) seconded the motion. It gave him great pleasure to support the motion in favour of the establishment of an advisory board. A meeting of dissatisfied dairymen had recently been held at Murgon, and amongst other resolutions was one in favour of the establishment of an advisory board. The dairymen at that meeting also carried a resolution, which read—

> "That our delegates to the Premier's Conference be instructed to embrace any opportunity of furthering the interests of our industry."

The meeting also carried a resolution which read as follows: —

> "That a conference of co-operative directors and delegates appointed by suppliers be called for the purpose of bringing into being a co-operative advisory board."

That resolution was passed six weeks ago, so it showed that the dairymen were in favour of the board being brought into existence. His experience, and the experience of others engaged in the dairying industry, was that they could deal fairly well with the production part of the business, but directly the butter left their control to a certain extent it was forgotten, and when it hit London it arrived in a most friendless condition. (Laughter.) If the Government could give them some assistance by oversight of the butter when it reached London they would be doing the dairymen a great service. He was not a party political

man, as he was a farmer, but he hoped that Mr. Fihelly would devote the ability which he possessed to taking charge of the butter when it arrived in London in a friendless condition. (Applause.)

Mr. H. M. STEVENS (*Rosewood*): It was ridiculous for Mr. Witton to talk about the butter arriving in London in a friendless condition when they all knew that they had in London an organisation of the whole of the co-operating and marketing agencies of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa competent and willing to look after all their business if they would only entrust it to them. (Hear, hear!) That organisation in London had been hounded down by speculative operators in London, and Australia also. There was an article in the "Sydney Mail" of 28th February attacking the federation and quoting figures in order to damn it and trying to induce the farmers to withdraw their support from it. Unfortunately, the dairymen and co-operative companies in Queensland and Australia aided and abetted the speculators by handing over their produce to them to manipulate and control the market in any way they liked. The federation were absolutely competent to control all the business, and it seemed lamentable to him to hear a chairman of a co-operative company coming there and invoking the aid of Government assistance. He was glad to hear that the Government were sympathetic to the farmers. They were asked to let bygones be bygones, but it was absolutely impossible for them to forget the treatment they as producers received from the Government of Queensland in years past. They well recollected that one of the first acts of the Government was to arbitrarily fix the price of butter without any reference to the cost of production at all. At that time it was costing 3s. 6d. to manufacture 1 lb. of butter, but the price was fixed by the Government at something less than one-half that price.

Mr. McANALLY pointed out that Mr. Stevens was out of order. They had come there to listen to reasons for appointing an advisory board, and Mr. Stevens was not discussing the question.

The CHAIRMAN: He should discuss the question broadly.

The PREMIER: It seems to me that, whatever happened in the past and whatever mistakes were made, we should find some way of using our intelligence to arrive at a better system now. (Hear, hear!)

Control of Marketing Operations.

Mr. H. M. STEVENS: He congratulated the Government on the fact that they came to the conclusion that the producers were worthy of some consideration and that the Government were not going to insist on making them squeal. (Hear, hear!) The Premier referred to the necessity of financing the advisory board, and magnanimously offered to finance the board for the first twelve months. Already the Government had deprived them of ten times the amount of money necessary to finance any advisory board for very much longer than twelve months, so that if the Government were inclined to make any restitution it would be a mere act of justice only. He was very pleased to hear the Premier's remarks to the effect that capital was not necessary for the farmers to conduct their own marketing operations. That was a bugbear that they found brought up on every possible occasion by the speculators and those who wished to continue to have control of their marketing operations. They were constantly told that it was impossible for them to market their own products while they (the large operators) had ample funds at their disposal. He had maintained for years past that if they would only unite—if considered advisable, have an advisory board—they had the remedy in their own hands. They had the produce. As the

Premier had remarked, the dairying industry was worth £7,000,000, and with that money what need had they to go cap in hand to the London speculators, the London merchants, or to anyone else? They had their organisations already established, and all they had to do was to hand their produce over to them instead of handing it over to the speculators. They had the matter fixed so far as marketing in the old country was concerned, and he was pleased to know that Mr. Trehearn had gone to the old country in order to link up the Canadian and United States farmers with their organisations, so that they would have a continuity of supplies throughout the year on their own floor space. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. WIGHT (Farmers' Alliance): While he quite agreed with the object of the resolution, he thought it would be inadvisable for the Conference to appoint the members of the advisory board. He would therefore move as an amendment that the words "by this Conference" be deleted, and later on he intended to move an amendment to paragraph (6)—"Constitution of the board" —to provide that it was absolutely necessary that some alteration should be made in the system of marketing their butter in London to-day. They were told that the Wholesale Co-operative Federation met the requirements of the producers; but even the representatives on the various boards of directors could give them no assurance that their butter was now being marketed direct to the retailers through that federation. It seemed to him, from the information available, that the Co-operative Federation was simply another link in the long chain of middlemen that stood between the producer and the consumer. The boards of directors of the different dairy companies had no direct control over the operations of the federation, although they had it indirectly through their local distributing office. He would point out that the agenda paper made no provision for immediate relief of the conditions under which the farmers were suffering to-day, and he had certain proposals to make which he would like to outline. He put them forward on behalf of the Farmers' Alliance. They were:—

"1. That the Queensland Government introduce legislation at the earliest possible moment for the formation of a butter pool (compulsory).

"2. That an advisory board be elected and constituted as follows:—

(*a*) Three members to be elected from the dairy companies' associations;

(*b*) Two members to be drawn from the rank and file of the cream suppliers, nominations for which will be called and selection made by the Government;

(*c*) Two Government representatives;

making a total of seven members.

"3. That all butter produced in Queensland shall be controlled by the advisory board with a view to stabilising prices, and, if the Constitution permits, provision shall be made to prevent imports from other States cutting the local price.

"4. The wholesale selling price shall be based upon production cost, and, until accurate figures are available, 1s. 7d. shall be regarded as the cost to the cream-suppliers of producing the quantity of cream necessary to manufacture 1 lb. of butter.

"5. That the Government establish a distributing floor in London for the marketing of Queensland dairy produce, the floor to be controlled by the producers under the supervision of the Queensland Agent-General's Department."

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He understood that it would be possible to make a provision to prevent butter from the other States cutting under local prices by a Proclamation under the Sugar Acquisition Act. In 1915 a Proclamation was issued commandeering cattle within the State, and by a Proclamation butter also could be made a commodity to which that Act would apply. The farmers to-day were looking to Heaven for some speedy redress. If an advisory board were appointed it would be some considerable time before it could be put in working order and in a position to remove the grievances in the industry which called for immediate relief. They could not wait three months for relief, and by the time the advisory board could deal with the matter some of the farmers would be amongst the ranks of the unemployed. He wanted to obviate that. There was no doubt that the older farms, owing to the construction of railways, were more valuable now. The value had increased 1,000 per cent. in some cases so far as the land value was concerned. He knew of many farmers who bought land in Queensland at £1 an acre 25 years ago who had sold out at £25 an acre.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that Mr. Wight had exhausted his time.

Mr. WIGHT: There was one point he wished to make clear. It would be very unwise for the Conference to appoint the board to-day. It should be left to the organisations in the dairying industry to appoint their own delegates, otherwise they would probably not get intelligent representatives. (Laughter.)

As there was no seconder of the amendment, the amendment lapsed.

Mr. RUDD (Terror's Creek Co-operative Dairy Coy.): As the Premier had stated, the dairymen were a community without any status to-day. The Government and previous Governments were responsible for that position to a very large extent. He took it that a man's status was summed up by the amount of money he had in his pockets or in his banking account. That being so, he would suggest that there was an easy way to put them in the position where they would have some status in the community, when they would not be looked upon by their city cousins as serfs of the community any longer. He was not finding any fault with the Government. They all blundered at times. But if in 1919, through the Price Fixing Commissioner, the Government took money from the industry, the least the Government could do to relieve the distress in the industry to-day was to subsidise the output. That was the only immediate relief that was possible. He could safely say that, in his own district, the people wanted to give up the cows and become factory employees, as they could not pay their ration accounts with the present price of cream. If the Government were sincere they should give relief for the next six months by subsidising the output by 1d. per lb. If that were not done, returned soldiers and others in his district could not hold out any longer, as their credit with the local storekeepers was exhausted, and there would be nothing for them but to leave the land. That would be a national calamity. If the Government agreed to such a subsidy they would not be giving the dairymen any "sop"; they would only be giving back something that was taken from them.

As regards the advisory board: He would like to have seen such a board selected by the co-operative butter factory associations. The Premier said it was necessary to have brainy business men on the board, but they must also have men possessed of co-operative principles. It was no use getting brainy business men who were not in favour of co-operation. He was sorry to read that the chairman of one co-operative factory in Queensland had advocated selling their surplus to speculators. They did not want a man like that on the board. They must be careful in selecting the advisory board, otherwise they would be doing the worst possible thing. Any man who advocated selling their

produce to speculators was an enemy to the co-operative movement, and they should be careful to see they were going to build up their business and not break it down.

Mr. N. C. HOPPER (Cooranga North Co-operative Cheese Coy.) moved the following amendment:—

> "That an advisory board for the dairying industry of Queensland and its objects be considered by this Conference, and that, if decided on, it be elected by the whole of the shareholders of the butter and cheese companies in Queensland."

If the motion was carried in its present form it would tie the Conference down to selecting a body of men who, if they had time to think, they would probably leave out in the near future. It was only right to the dairymen of Queensland that the matter should be referred to every shareholder in the butter and cheese factories in the State. They should get the best brains obtainable.

Mr. CARMODY (Gin Gin District Dairymen's Association) said he had much pleasure in seconding the amendment, as he was of opinion that the dairymen collectively were not truly represented in the Conference. His district strongly supported the appointment of an advisory board, but they needed to be very careful in its constitution. He thought the Government were very lenient in asking only for two representatives on the board, to which he thought they were justly entitled; but being the most democratic country in the world they should consult the suppliers as to who should be their representatives on the board. He welcomed the chance given to them to-day to do something concrete. He said he strongly resented some remarks made before the Price Fixing Commissioner by one lady, who stated that the dairymen out in the country were killing and starving the young life in the city by asking an extortionate price for their milk and butter. He was a worker, and he had never worked harder in his life than he did to-day. There were hundreds of women in the country to-day, who, even on the eve of maternity, were milking cows in all sorts of weather, in order to try and make ends meet. On behalf of his district he would give the advisory board his hearty support.

The PREMIER: It was in the hands of the Conference as to whether they constituted an advisory board and appointed it forthwith from the Conference, or arranged for the election of the board by all suppliers in Queensland. It was quite immaterial to the Government which course was adopted. It would be more democratic to consult every supplier in regard to the constitution of the board. There was only the question of the delay which was involved, which seemed to him to be rather material. The Government desired the advisory board to be appointed, so that it could get to work straightaway. They could not ask the Government to put any plan into operation until the advisory board had formulated a policy. That was why the Government wanted the board appointed quickly, but if the Conference thought that it would get a more satisfactory board by deferring the election it could decide accordingly. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. G. GRAHAM (Esk Co-operative Factory) referred to the scheme suggested by the Commonwealth Minister, Mr. Massy Greene, in regard to which the suppliers in his district were unanimously agreeable, and he took it that the advisory board now suggested was as near as they could get to Mr. Massy Greene's scheme for the present. There would, therefore, be no necessity for him to go back to the suppliers for their approval. As they were there with the confidence of their suppliers, and most of the directors there were

suppliers, it would be a waste of time to refer the matter back to them. That was why he was against the amendment. It would be a pity not to establish some scheme, but he did not think it would be possible to get a good advisory board unless they went in for true co-operation. If they got the cream and cheese suppliers, there was no need to go outside for an advisory board, because they were the most capable men in the industry. The farmers were afraid of legislation, because they did not know where it was going to land them. It had been said that the farmers worked 16 hours a day, and they wanted to get that altered. The farmers did not work 16 hours a day when they deducted the meal hours and time for "smoko." Every farmer knew what work was. He did not go in for farming for the fun of the thing, but he wanted to make his industry pay. At present, he knew of farmers who had their sons working at other occupations near their fathers' farms, and the son was getting more than the farm was returning. In addition, the son had an eight-hour day. He had been dairying for years and used milking machines, and he could not make his dairy pay at the present time. They were not sticking to dairying to get only 8½d. They knew that the markets would fluctuate and they would get more in time, but they could not make their sons see that. They wanted to work for a big co-operative system so that they could finance the industry for themselves.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS (Queensland Co-operative Butter Manufacturers' Association) agreed with the Chairman that they should let the dead past bury its dead. The Government may have hit them, but they had also hit the Government hard in years gone by. It was only a question of hitting a man hard enough to knock him out. If they hit him in a vital part they would get him in the end, and he thought that that was what they did to the Government. They had got a knockout. They were now in a position to start afresh. He suggested that a vote be taken on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN asked if they were satisfied that sufficient time had been given to the discussion of the amendment, and received an answer in the affirmative.

The amendment was then put and declared lost, only five or six voting in favour of it and the others against.

Mr. J. A. AUSTIN (President of the Queensland Farmers' Union) congratulated the Premier on calling the Conference, as much good would result from their deliberations. The dairymen were seized with the gravity of the situation at the present time, and for some years past they knew the difficulties they had to contend with. Now, at the psychological moment, the Premier realised that there should be a reclamation and a reconsideration of the whole position. As a result of the Conference they should be able to bring the dairying industry to the position it should have occupied long ago. They should make it one of the most profitable industries in the State. In the past the various dairy companies' associations had been the advisory boards for the dairy producers, because they were their elected representatives, and as they were in touch with the various suppliers they were able to know their ideas and were able to advise them. Whatever mistakes had been made in the past they did not want any conflict to-day. He was not *persona grata* with many of the dairy companies to-day, but that did not prevent him from making a fresh start. In the past they had been the victims of circumstances and they were bound by the conditions which existed at the time. With an advisory board they could make a fresh start, and, although errors might occur at the start, it would be for the benefit of the dairymen in the long run. The dairy industry should move forward on the path of progress, and whenever they had an opportunity

of helping it along they should seize that opportunity and do all they could to assist it. He was glad the Premier invited the primary producers to meet in conference. From the men gathered there that morning, he was sure they could elect a suitable advisory board to control the industry. He had much pleasure in supporting the proposal to form an advisory board.

Mr. W. PURCELL (Downs Co-operative Dairy Company, Limited) said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion. He was thoroughly in accord with the suggestion that the advisory board should be elected by the meeting assembled that day. The Premier wisely suggested that the Conference should assemble as early as possible, and that was why they assembled at short notice. As they had a representative gathering, they could elect the board. If they left it to the shareholders they would not get a better board than they could elect themselves that day. The men who were elected to the various boards were well represented that day. They were not elected on their local boards because they were the worst men, but rather because they were the best men in the district, and for that reason he thought they should elect the board that day. He had been president of the Cheese Manufactories' Association for five years, and he appealed to the cheese factory representatives, and also to the butter men, to carry the proposed scheme as it was submitted. They could improve it later on if necessary. They could not go on as they were. They were up against it. Someone said they had not a "bob." He for one gave his last cheque to the "kids." God knows they had to do something. The Government had been good enough to suggest something that would be of benefit to the industry, and they should look at it like broadminded, sensible men, jump at it and hold on to it with both hands. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. SKERMAN (Kaimkillenbun Co-operative Cheese Factory): He had great pleasure, on behalf of the company he represented, in supporting a motion that definite action be taken in regard to the supervision of the industry. It was apparent to all, by the speeches that had been delivered, that they were in a forlorn condition, and something must be done to save the industry and save the country. If the dairying industry was to be carried on as at the present time, the country must become poorer. There would be no extension in settlement, and those people already settled on the land would not be able to retain their holdings. Something must be done to give an impetus to settlement by providing for a reasonable return for primary products. It had been suggested that an advisory board be appointed provisionally for twelve months. During that time it could be knocked into the shape required. He was a son of a pioneer and had worked continuously on the land, and to-day he had to work, and his experience was the experience of many others. One factor that militated against success on the farm was the transport of their cream from the dairy to the factory. They talked about marketing their produce, but in many cases they had a product that was not worth marketing. The condition of that product was brought about, not through any fault of the factories or through any fault of the dairyman, but through not being able to get the cream from the separator to the factory within a reasonable time. A great quantity of the cream in Queensland had to stand from four to seven days from the time it left the separator until it was manufactured into butter. Under those conditions how was it possible to make a first-class butter in a climate like that in Queensland that would compare with Danish butter? The railway system wanted improving vastly if they wanted to improve the condition of their product. They should be able to get their cream to the factory quicker. In 90 per cent. of cases when the cream left the farm it was first quality, but it was second and even third quality when the factory manager had to handle it. Therefore, he would exhort

the Government to try and bring about improved means of transit, as at the present time the settlers in the outlying districts lost 25 per cent. of their income.

Mr. WINNETT (Southern Queensland Co-operative Dairy Company): He moved as an amendment—

> "That an advisory board for the dairying industry of Queensland be elected, and that such board be elected by the directors of existing co-operative companies."

That would meet the bill, otherwise there would be much discontent amongst the factories. The factories should have a chance of electing the representatives, and a time limit could be fixed so that if any factory did not send its vote in by a certain time it would lose its vote.

Mr. SHAILER (Memerambi): They all agreed that it was necessary to have an advisory board, but he did not think the matter should be rushed through that day. If the Board could be elected by the suppliers or factory managers it would be much better, but something should be done immediately to relieve the position. An advisory board would take weeks or months, and in the meantime, unless something was done, a great number of the farmers would have to leave their farms. In his district men—dairymen—had to send their cream in 40 miles to the factory, and then they only got 7d. per lb. for the commercial butter content of the cream. Milk in his district was worth 3¼d. a gallon delivered at the factory for cheese, and under those circumstances it was quite impossible to make a living.

Amendment put and lost.

A DELEGATE: We do not understand, if an advisory board is appointed, whether it will be compulsory or otherwise.

The PREMIER: There would be nothing compulsory in the scheme, except compulsion on the part of the advisory board to sit and consider the question. They would have to undertake immediately the consideration of the very problems now agitating the minds of those in the industry. If they did their work properly they ought to be able to formulate almost at once some scheme for the Government and those in the industry to act on. What would be done when they formulated their proposals would depend on the nature of the proposals. Suppose they recommended the formation of a pool. Then the industry would have to be consulted.

A DELEGATE: Suppose one or two factories stand out?

The PREMIER: If the advisory board recommended a pool, before it was enforced the industry would have to be consulted; but if the advisory board recommended a pool and the industry supported the recommendation, then it would be put into operation.

Motion put and carried unanimously amidst applause.

OBJECTS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS, secretary of the Queensland Co-operative Dairy Companies' Association, moved—

"That the objects of the advisory board include the following:—

(*a*) To consider the question of investigating, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Stock, the problems relating to the dairying industry of this State;

(*b*) To investigate the methods of production, manufacture, marketing, storage, and distribution of dairy produce;

(*c*) To consider the question of the establishment of pools for dairy produce;

(*d*) To consider the question of the co-ordination of the activities of existing co-operative companies;

(*e*) To consider the question of the improvement of the productiveness of the individual dairy herds by general application of systematic herd testing or any other efficacious means.

(*f*) To consider the question of the purchase of all factory and farm requisites through co-operative channels;

(*g*) To consider the question of fodder conservation;

(*h*) To consider the question of extending the benefits of the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Advances to Farmers Act, or any other means for the establishment of rural credit."

A Red Letter Day.

He congratulated the Government on calling them together on that occasion, which was a red-letter day in the history of Queensland dairying. Only a few years ago the whole of their butter was manufactured under proprietary auspices. The farmers then met together and subscribed capital to work the factories. Fully 90 per cent. of the butter in Queensland was manufactured to-day by co-operative companies. He claimed that the dairy farmer of Queensland was the most progressive farmer in Australia. The cheese associations and the co-operative dairying associations had done an immense amount of good not only to the dairymen of Queensland but to the dairy farmers in the other States. He claimed that the dairy farmers of Queensland were the only dairy farmers in Australia to control the price of their product on the local market. In pre-war days the farmers sent their stuff to their agents in Brisbane, who fixed the price, and the farmers had no say in the matter; but to-day the farmers themselves fixed the price of their commodity on the local market without consulting the merchants. That was the progress they had made, and that action had put into the pockets of the farmers in Queensland, in connection with butter sold in Queensland during that period, a sum of £98,000. A few weeks ago, when they found the merchants were giving discounts and attempting to break their markets, the dairymen got together again and laid down the terms upon which the merchants should do their business. They had consolidated their work as they had gone along. What they had done was going to be of lasting benefit to the industry. In Queensland they were taking a forward move to improve the quality of their production. One of the first functions of the proposed advisory board would be to ask the Government to take steps to enable the Railway Department to build a larger number of railway trucks suitable for the carriage of butter. The farmers were endeavouring to improve their article, and the advisory board would ask the Department to help them to keep their product good.

The Marketing Problem.

The question of marketing was a big problem. There was not a butter company in Queensland which was satisfied with the present method of distribution of their products in the markets of the world. He had seen Queensland butter going into store in London in a poultry shop, where they never sold a

pound of butter, and coming out three or four doors away in nice Dorset rolls and Devonshire pats, which showed that if they made a good article it would sell; but they were not selling their butter at the other end in a proper manner. They had sent their butter to the merchants and let them do what they liked with it. As dairy people they objected to the Government going on with the Hamilton Cold Stores, which they thought was a mistake, but the farmers had made a greater mistake in not going on with their own works. As bad as they thought the Hamilton site was, it was better to have a cold store somewhere in which to store their butter, instead of leaving it for four or five days in the railway trucks.

The Premier: The advisory board, if it had been in existence, would have been consulted about the site for the cold stores and such matters as that.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS was glad that the board would be consulted in those matters.

The CHAIRMAN: That is one of their functions. I do not want to stop you, but you have exceeded your time unless the meeting grants you an extension.

[*A motion was formally passed granting Mr. Harris an extension of time to finish his speech.*]

A Dairy Pool.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS: Another object of the board was to consider the question of the establishment of pools for dairy produce. They had been devoting their energies in that direction for some time past, and they had been trying to get the dairy farmers in the other States to come forward and join a Commonwealth pool. In Queensland, they had advocated in season and out of season the formation of a compulsory Commonwealth pool, but they were informed by the Commonwealth authorities that it would be unconstitutional to grant a Commonwealth pool. That being so, it remained for the Queensland dairy farmers to form a Queensland pool. Although he had always been an advocate for a pool, he knew that they had not been the success they at first anticipated.

The CHAIRMAN: Did the Commonwealth Government refuse to grant you a Commonwealth pool?

Mr. W. T. HARRIS: Yes. The Commonwealth authorities refused to grant it on the grounds that it interfered with State rights.

The Premier: They would have as much authority to grant that as to form a Commonwealth Wheat Board.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS: When they made application they were informed by Mr. Massy Greene and Mr. Rodgers—the Ministers concerned—that a Commonwealth pool could not be formed. Although he believed in a voluntary pool for the Queensland primary producers, he thought they should go neck or nothing for a compulsory Commonwealth pool. He thought the lines laid down by the Minister as the objects of the advisory board were all that they could desire. He noticed that the board was to consider the question of the purchase of all factory and farm requisities through co-operative channels. That was a business proposition, and was one which would help the farmers. When the farmers bought individually they had to pay through the neck for everything. He remembered twelve months ago that the timber merchants wanted 3s. 6d. to 4s. each for boxes, but when the co-operative company made the arrangement they were able to get 250,000 boxes at 3s. each, thus effecting a saving for the farmers of something like £6,250. In connection with the purchase of machinery, the

Maryborough factory was able to purchase a boiler for £300 less than if the purchase were made by an individual. It would be an economical proposition for the advisory board to buy all requisities for farmers. He knew, as secretary of the Dairy Companies' Association, that he could purchase cans and separators for 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. less than the market rates ruling at present. He had much pleasure in moving the resolution he had just read.

The Greatest Forward Movement.

Mr. McANALLY expressed his pleasure in seconding the resolution. He was pleased that the meeting decided to elect an advisory board, and he approved of the objects set out in the motion. Their position had been considerably advanced by that Conference, and that day would be a red letter one in the history of the primary producer. They had progressed considerably, in that they were able to induce the head of the Government to come down amongst the farmers and talk to them at first hand on questions which most affected their industrial welfare. (Hear, hear!) It was the greatest forward movement that the farmers of Queensland had been able to make up till the present time. He did not agree with Mr. Harris about the Danish butter, as he considered the Danish butter should be given first preference, but the Australian butter came a good second. (Hear, hear!) The Danish butter, however, was put on the market under one brand, whereas the Australian butter was put on the market under 453 brands. They would have to alter that. All that the producers asked for was fair justice. In the case of wheat, the farmer got his 5s. or 8s. per bushel. The miller passed it on to the baker, and the baker to the consumer, and the consumer in turn got an increase of wages at the Arbitration Court, so that everybody benefited, and everyone got fair justice. They had converted Mr. Gillies to their way of thinking long ago, and now they had converted the Premier. (Laughter.)

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. J. H. KESSELL (Gladstone): The next motion was a formal one He moved—

> "(3) *Administration*: That the advisory board shall be given authority to appoint an administrative staff consisting of a manager, a business expert, and such other skilled investigators as may be considered necessary by the board."

Mr. ANDREWS seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

LEGISLATION.

Mr. J. A. AUSTIN moved—

> "(4) *Legislation*: That if necessary the advisory board shall be invested with statutory authority, and in such case the board shall advise as to the authority necessary."

Mr. BERMINGHAM seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

Report of Proceedings of Dairy Conference.

FINANCE.

Mr. HOPPER moved—

> "(5) *Finance*: That during the first twelve (12) months of its existence the cost of the advisory board shall be defrayed by the Government; that thereafter the scheme shall be financed by contributions from individual suppliers in the industry; and that the rate of such contributions and the manner in which they are to be collected shall be determined hereafter."

Mr. RUDD seconded the motion.

A delegate drew attention to the wording of the resolution, which stated that the Government would finance the scheme for twelve months. Would the Government require two representatives on the board after twelve months?

The PREMIER pointed out that after the board was in operation it might be considered advisable to continue the Government representation on the board. The Agricultural Department would be prepared to render any assistance that was necessary even after the expiration of the first twelve months. The usefulness of the advisory board would depend on the men appointed. The Government would act generously to the board, and would continue the financial assistance after the twelve months if necessary. They would, no doubt, desire to have the best business men on the board, and if they got the best brains and the men with the most ability they would have to pay them well. It might cost £5,000 for the first year, but whatever it was the Government would assist them financially. They could consider the question of further assistance at a later date.

Mr. GRAHAM said that the motion stated that contributions would be made by individual suppliers, and he asked what that covered.

The PREMIER: His interpretation was that it might be advisable to levy a small sum like one-eighth of a penny per lb. on butter-fat supplied to butter factories, and one-sixteenth of a penny per gallon on milk supplied to cheese factories. That would be following the same policy as was adopted with the Cane Price Boards. There was a levy upon every ton of cane harvested. That was the fairest kind of contribution they could have, and those who contributed did not feel it, although in the aggregate it provided a very large fund indeed.

A Delegate: The motion should read "such contribution from suppliers" instead of from "individual suppliers."

The CHAIRMAN: If there was no objection he would cut out the word "individual."

The motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION OF BOARD.

Mr. HOLTON moved—

> "That the provisional Advisory Board shall consist of seven members, of whom five members shall be appointed by this Conference and two members by the Government."

Mr. PENDER said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, as it was only proper that the Government should be represented on the board. The Government had in its employ as dairy inspector probably one of the ablest men in Queensland, and that gentleman's advice would be very helpful to the board. Mr. Graham was a very able officer, and his assistance would be very

useful to the board. Many years ago he was present at a conference held in Parliament House when Mr. John White was Minister for Agriculture, and the delegates at that conference unanimously agreed that Mr. Graham should be placed at the head of the department.

The CHAIRMAN: There was no doubt but that Mr. Graham would be one of the Government nominees. I appreciate what you say regarding him.

Mr. JAMES PURCELL: First of all he would like to congratulate the Premier on his very able address. So far as the producers were concerned, it was the most hopeful address given by any Premier in any State in the Commonwealth of Australia. (Hear, hear!) They all congratulated the Premier on his very fine address, and he was very hopeful that some great good for the dairying industry would come out of it. He would like to remind the Conference that there were three great branches in the dairying industry represented at the Conference, and if the Conference were going to vote in a body for those representatives there were some branches of the industry that would be left out. He would ask the Government to agree to have one representative on the board instead of two, and that they give the butter interests three representatives, to be nominated by the people in the industry; that they give the cheese people two representatives, to be elected by the people in the cheese industry; that the Government have one representative, and that they give the condensed milk industry one representative.

The PREMIER: You need not cut down the Government representation—you can increase the number of members on the board.

Mr. JAMES PURCELL: It was very necessary to keep the number down. Each branch of the industry should have representation in accordance with the importance of the branch. He therefore moved—

> "That the board be constituted of seven members, three to be elected by the butter people, two by the cheese people, one by the condensed milk people, and one by the Government."

The CHAIRMAN: I take it that Mr. Purcell intends that this Conference shall proceed with the election?

Mr. J. PURCELL: That is so.

The CHAIRMAN: If that is so the Government are prepared to accept the amendment.

A DELEGATE: In regard to the representative from the condensed milk people—would he represent the proprietary companies or the co-operative companies?

The PREMIER: The representation would really be from the suppliers, because it was a suppliers' problem they were considering, and not the proprietary companies' problem.

The CHAIRMAN: We should lay it down clearly that the representative of the condensed milk people is a supplier.

The PREMIER: If there was any danger of the proprietary companies being represented and thus dominating the board, it might be necessary to state that the member must be drawn from the milk suppliers.

Mr. McANALLY: He did not agree with Mr. Purcell, as his motion seemed to bring in a spirit of antagonism between the two interests. He did not see why they should not allow the motion as originally on the paper to be

passed. In a dry time very many of the cheese factories had to close up altogether, and the suppliers were forced to send their milk to the butter factories. They had met under the co-operative principle, and why could they not all combine?

Mr. BURTON (Wyreema): He thought Mr. Purcell's suggestion was a very wise one, as it would remove any possibility of bias. He was pleased that the matter of a representative being elected to represent the condensers had been brought up. He really represented 150 suppliers to the condensers, and he had no desire to be on the advisory board; but he should like to have someone on it, and he did not think any trouble would be caused in regard to the representative being in proprietary interests, because it would be a supplier who would be on the board, and not a member of the proprietary company. Whilst he was speaking, he would like to thank the Chairman and the Premier on behalf of the suppliers whom he represented for calling the Conference together. He might not have another opportunity of assuring the Chairman and the Premier that the dairying industry was in a very bad way. Those delegates present were mostly men who had made good. Perhaps they had had their properties left to them by their parents; but behind those gentlemen there were a lot of people in the country with ruin absolutely staring them in the face, and he commended very strongly the action of the Government in calling the Conference together.

Mr. MICKAN (Kingaroy): Mr. Purcell had asked for three representatives from the butter industry, and in electing those three representatives they should elect them in such a way that the different sections of Queensland would be represented. In 1918-19 and 1919-20 the output of butter from the various Downs districts represented 17 per cent.; output below the range and South Coast amounted to 29¼ per cent.; and for the North Coast and far North the output represented 53¾ per cent. He thought that that pretty well proved that the representation should be by district.

Mr. WIGHT (representing the Farmers' Alliance): He believed that the success of the advisory board rested in the election of its members. He thought it would be impossible for the meeting to elect the members of the board satisfactorily, because they were unacquainted with one another, and the dairy and butter producers' associations, and the producers themselves, should have an opportunity of saying who should represent them. He wished to move the following amendment—

> "That two members be elected from the dairy companies' association; one member from the cheese companies' association; two members to be drawn from the rank and file of the cream suppliers, nomination for which will be called and selection made by the Government, and two Government representatives, making a total of seven members."

The CHAIRMAN: He could not accept that amendment, because the Conference had already affirmed the principle of the Conference electing the board.

Mr. G. GRAHAM thought that the milk suppliers to the milk factories should be represented. He was speaking for Nestle's at Toogoolawah and the Toogoolawah Dairy Farmers' Association. Up there they paid on the butter fat; it did not matter to the factory where the farmers were getting their milk from. It was not a matter of proprietary companies, but of suppliers

Mr. STAFFORD (Standard Dairy Company) said he did not see why the election of members of the board should be confined to suppliers if a company had been doing a good thing for the country in building up a good business. A supplier or a member of a proprietary company should be eligible.

Mr. PURCELL moved an addition to his motion—

"That the representatives of the butter, cheese, and condensed milk branches of the industry, respectively, meet separately to elect the members of the provisional Advisory Board referred to in Resolution No. 6."

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

The CHAIRMAN: The next thing was to arrange to carry out the election.

The PREMIER: They had really agreed on the principle of sectional representation on the Advisory Board, and the particular sections to nominate representatives. He suggested that the representatives of the butter, cheese, and condensed milk industries, respectively, should meet separately to elect representatives of the provisional Advisory Board referred to in resolution 6 on agenda paper.

Mr. J. A. AUSTIN suggested that the election be held at once, and that they should separate for half an hour.

Mr. HOLTON endorsed the suggestion.

The Conference then adjourned until the election of members of the Advisory Board had been disposed of.

The Conference resumed at 4.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN announced the result of the voting, and stated that the Advisory Board would be constituted as follows:—

Butter representatives: Messrs. W. T. Harris, T. Flood Plunkett, and W. E. Dean.

Cheese representatives: Messrs. William Purcell and Henry Keefer.

Condensed milk representative: Mr. G. Burton.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like the members of the Advisory Board to meet him after the Conference had concluded, as he had a number of matters to discuss with them. He would provide them with a room at the Agricultural Department, and, if necessary, they would also be provided with a temporary secretary. It was necessary that they should get to business straight away.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not know if any member had anything further to bring before the Conference. He would like to know if members wished to sit after the tea adjournment, or if they would like to continue their deliberations on the following morning. If they had no further business, he would call on the Premier to address them on the organisation of the agricultural industry generally and the policy of the Government regarding agricultural matters.

Mr. HOPPER said the Premier invited them to bring forward any matters after the business on the agenda paper had been disposed of, and there were one or two small matters of vital importance to the cheese manufacturers which might be ventilated. Speaking of the cheese manufacturers on the other side of Toowoomba, he thought they should be given better facilities for the

marketing of their products. Cheese was sent by rail to Brisbane from Bell and Kaimkillenbun, and in order to see in what condition the cheese was delivered in Brisbane he paid a visit to Foley Bros. He found that the cheese had to be put in dirty railway trucks at both Bell and Kaimkillenbun, and in addition the trucks had bolts protruding 1 in. to 1½ in. from the floor of the trucks. The result was that the marks of the bolts protruded into the cheese, and, in addition, the dirty floors meant a deterioration of the cheese of from 10 to 20 per cent. He hoped the Premier and the Chairman would see that the Railway Department gave this matter serious attention in the interests of the primary producers. He thought it was a matter the Advisory Board should go into as soon as possible. He thought they should approach the Government to provide properly insulated trucks for the cheese manufacturing districts, so that their produce could be marketed in good condition. Anyone looking at the cheese from Toowoomba would see that it arrived in good condition, while that from Bell and Kaimkillenbun was a disgrace. The Dairy Act passed by the Government was one of the very best dairy Acts ever passed in Queensland, but they should not force it on to the primary producers without helping them financially to carry out its provisions. It would be a big burden on the primary producers unless they were given some financial assistance. The Government had State sawmills, and they could help the primary producers in adopting a standard box for all dairies.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Mr. Hopper's time had expired.

Mr. J. PURCELL thought that the matters raised by Mr. Hopper could well be left to the Advisory Board, as they were the very matters that the board were appointed to deal with.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had met Mr. Hopper on his farm, and he knew that he was a hard-working primary producer, but he thought his ideas could better be taken up by the Advisory Board. They could make recommendations to the Government, and those recommendations, coming from such an organised body, would receive every consideration from the Government.

Mr. HOPPER accepted the suggestion made by Mr. Purcell, and said he would take the matter up with the Advisory Board.

Mr. KESSELL thought that the delegates would like to hear the remarks of the Premier.

MR. THEODORE'S SCHEME FOR ORGANISING THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

The CHAIRMAN: I have much pleasure in calling on the Premier to address you. (Applause.)

The PREMIER, who was received with applause, said he did not want the impression to be created that he wished to monopolise the Conference. But he had one or two ideas to put forward for their consideration. Full opportunity would be given for all their proposals to be brought forward. He hoped the Conference would not be terminated hurriedly before they had a full opportunity of discussing all the matters they had met to consider that day. What he wished to put before them was a scheme for effective organisation, which was the main concern of the agricultural industry. That Conference was the most representative dairy conference that had ever assembled in Queensland. It might not be the largest numerically, but it was the most representative conference of dairymen that had ever assembled. Therefore, he would like to put before them his scheme of organisation, which, in his opinion, was necessary before they could have an adequate solution of the problems with which they were confronted. They had elected an Advisory

Board, but if they did not do anything further than that then they would have no better organisation than they had before. If that was all they were going to do, then the agricultural industry would be no better off than when they started. It was like attempting to build an organisation from the top downwards, instead of from the foundation upwards.

Basic Organisation Necessary.

They had an Advisory Board created, but they had not a basic organisation established. It was necessary to start in that way, because of the urgency of some of the problems, but they should be lacking in wisdom if they did not take the existing opportunity to establish a thoroughly effective organisation among the farmers in order to complete the scheme of which the Advisory Board was only a part. The Advisory Board must dovetail in with a complete scheme of organisation, and the Advisory Board in the dairying industry was, perhaps, not the only Advisory Board that might be necessary in connection with agriculture. He did not suppose they could find any branch of agriculture more disorganised or suffering worse disabilities at the present moment than the fruitgrowing industry of Queensland or of Australia, and if any branch of agriculture wanted an advisory board the fruit industry wanted it in all conscience. That was why he said they should only be doing part of the work if they were content with appointing an Advisory Board and allowed that Advisory Board to study the problems and let the work rest there. Every farmer ought to be organised into some form of farmers' association, the designation of which did not matter, but the form of constitution did matter. The farmers themselves ought to determine that eventually, but in order that the thing could be started, he had roughed out a scheme—just the skeleton of an organisation—in order that such a thing could be launched. It might be asked, "Why establish another organisation when the Queensland Farmers' Union was in existence, and the Farmers' Alliance, and various other organisations of that kind?"

The Wider Aspect of Agriculture.

There was a necessity for an organisation to deal with the wider aspect of agriculture and to co-ordinate the efforts of all farmers' organisations that were not party political organisations, and there was a necessity for an organisation which was broad enough to embrace every agriculturist and small grazier in Queensland, and it was necessary for that to be free of any party alliance whatever. It might be equally necessary at the same time to have, if they liked, Queensland Farmers' Unions and Australian Labour Party organisations in farming districts, or whatever other kind of party organisation they wanted for purely party political purposes. A farmer must have the same right to express his party prejudices or beliefs or preferences as any other member of the community, but it was essential that there should be an organisation free of that kind of limitation; free for everyone in the agricultural industry to participate in; and free to act in full co-operation with the Government, whatever Government might be in office—whether it was the existing Government or some other Government.

The American and Canadian Systems of Rural Organisation.

His ideas upon the matter had to a large extent been assisted by a study of the conditions relating to the organisation of farmers in Canada and in America, and one had to give consideration to the experience of those countries, who had advanced vastly farther in that respect than any other agricultural country in the world. The United States and Canada had through

the organisation of the farmers and development of agriculture increased the status of the farmers farther than any other country in the world, and they in Queensland would be foolish to ignore the experience of the American farmers or overlook the benefits they had gained for themselves through that form of organisation. In America the organisation was known as The American Farm Bureau Federation. In every agricultural centre, large and small, in the United States there was a local farm bureau. It might comprise only twenty members, or it might comprise 1,000 members, each one of them farmers. Those were linked up with what were known as the County Federations. They had their State executives in every State, and they again were linked up with what was known as the Federation of Farm Bureaux, with headquarters at Washington. They employed a tremendous staff, and their revenues came from individual contributions from members all over the United States. They had a membership of 1,500,000 farmers, and their aggregate membership fees represented a very large fund. They employed the best expert agriculturists, educationalists, propagandists, and organisers that were to be got anywhere in the world, and, consequently, they were carrying on the most effective kind of propaganda and organising, and their influence was felt in an exceptional way in America. The organised farmers in America at the present time was the strongest organised section in America, and their influence was felt in every direction—in public movements, in the Legislature, in administrative matters, and they had the actual co-operation of the United States Department of Agriculture. In every large county and in every State they had what were known as the county agents. Those were expert agriculturists selected by the Department of Agriculture, and paid for by the Government, who were acting in constant co-operation with the farmers' organisation.

A Scheme for Queensland.

That organisation, which had been developed in the last two or three years only, had proved so successful, and had emancipated the farmers from so many wrongs and disabilities, that they would be foolish if they did not attempt some kind of organisation of that nature in Queensland. There was nothing to be lost by it. So section, no party, no authority suffered any loss because of the organisation of the farmers on those lines in Queensland. They were not doing any injury to anybody by doing that, but they were providing the farmers with the means to become articulate—to voice their opinions, their grievances, their wrongs, and by the force of their organisations to have their grievances adjusted, and also to have a basic organisation with which the Advisory Board and other authorities of that kind that might be established would work in complete unity and harmony. The idea he had formulated and which would be circulated was merely the arbitrary outline of a mere skeleton scheme. It did not represent the final word by any means. Nothing of the sort. It was a mere suggestion, and embraced the establishment of what he would call the Queensland Producers' Association. It would comprise local producers' associations in every centre where there was sufficient farmers to form one; those to be linked up in district councils of agriculture. One of the provisions was as follows:—

> "In every district where farmers are enrolled, there shall be formed as auxiliaries to the District Councils of Agriculture and of the Central Council, Local Producers' Associations. Each sub-district may form Local Producers' Associations. (For example:—Assuming that a District Council were formed for the North Coast District, Local Producers' Associations might be constituted at Maleny, Montville, Flaxton, Mapleton, Buderim Mountain, Woombye, and other centres, with, say, the headquarters of the District Council at Nambour.)"

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In the Granite Fruit Belt, in the Stanthorpe District, there were about a dozen fruitgrowing centres. Each centre might have its local producers' association, each one linked up with the district council with headquarters at Stanthorpe. On the Downs, and in the various agricultural districts of Queensland, they could establish all those organisations correlated and co-ordinated and linked up with the Central Council of Agriculture, and the Central Council of Agriculture might be formed in this way. There must be a start somewhere, and this would be a provisional council.

"The first Council of Agriculture might be appointed by the Governor in Council, and should consist of twenty members, such members of the council to be appointed as follows:—

Fifteen members to be elected in groups according to the sections of the industry to be represented;

Five members to be appointed by the Governor in Council;

The Secretary for Agriculture to be president of the council, and other officers of the council to be elected by the council itself.

"This Council of Agriculture is to be the supreme authority in the Queensland Producers' Association.

"The objects of the council shall be to co-operate with the Local Producers' Association and the Department of Agriculture in—

(i.) The development of the rural industries;

(ii.) Investigating and dealing with problems relating to the rural industries;

(iii.) Advising agriculturists with regard to matters which require scientific knowledge and training;

(iv.) Research on subjects pertaining to the rural industries;

(v.) Securing effective action for the controlling of diseases and pests generally;

(vi.) The securing of additional markets for the disposal of produce and of improved means of distribution;

(vii.) The securing of improved means of transport;

(viii.) The watching of markets and the commercial side of the rural industries generally;

(ix.) The general policy of standardising;

(x.) Extending the usefulness of the professional staff of the Department of Agriculture;

(xi.) Regarding matters in relation to agriculture which may be referred to the council by the Minister;

(xii.) Generally, advising, assisting, and co-operating with the Department in all matters pertaining to the rural industries."

The Scheme Explained.

It might be asked how that would work in view of what they have done with an Advisory Board. He might explain that the general council of agriculture would be the supreme authority; but under it, and in close touch with the particular branch of industry with which it was concerned, would be the advisory

boards. The advisory boards would be to some extent subordinate to the general council, but they would be charged with the duty of carrying out special investigations and exercising functions in their special branch of the industry. In these matters they would not be interfered with. Another advisory board could be appointed for the fruitgrowing industry, and the efforts of the advisory boards would, when necessary, be co-ordinated by the central council of agriculture. The whole of those organisations from the bottom to the top, through the local producers' associations, through the district councils, through the advisory boards, and through the central council of agriculture, would be farmer-controlled organisations. The Government would be represented on the advisory boards and on the central council, but it would only be represented by having some of its expert agriculturists on it and the Minister for Agriculture, whoever he might be, from time to time. That was in order to keep complete touch between the farmers' organisations and the department, which must work in hearty co-operation in order to make the best of their advantages. If in order to have the thing launched, the farmers themselves would express their satisfaction with an idea of that kind, the Government was prepared to convene, first of all, the central council of agriculture; to bring it into being the same way as the Advisory Board had been brought into being. He would like to get their assent to the council on those lines. The central council could be a provisional council for the purpose of getting the organisation formed. The provisional council would have to appoint a director and a number of organisers. The Government, in the same way as would be done with the Advisory Board, would finance initial operations for twelve months or so, until the organisation was fully established. When the organisation was established, it would then define its rules, draw up its constitution, determine the mode of control, and arrange its finance, and conduct its business without any interference from the Government or from any other quarter. (Hear, hear!) He would recommend that to their consideration. He would like to have their criticism or comments on it, or to answer any question they liked to ask. This was the scheme he touched upon on his agricultural visit to the Downs and below the range a week or two ago. Since then he had received many communications from various parts of the State endorsing that scheme. In one or two districts they had gone so far as to tentatively elect their organisers to put the scheme into operation. That was a good spirit, and, if that spirit was followed, an organisation of this kind would in twelve months be established.

Farmers a Force.

If they had an organisation of that magnitude effectively established, the farmers would begin to be a force in Queensland, which they were not at the present time. They would be able to speak to Governments, private companies, to the Commissioner for Railways, and the shipping companies, and whoever they had business with, in an authoritative voice. This was the best scheme he could formulate. Of course, the establishment of the organisation itself did not accomplish any reform, but when the organisation was established, it would, by the force of its own power and the brains and energy of the men controlling it, formulate schemes of more effective co-operation for the solution of the problems facing the industry, for the spread of propaganda, for the formulation of policies dealing with educational matters, and so on, and in that way it would effect reforms for agriculture. He was not pretending that the Government was acting as a Government quite impersonally in the matter; the State would get some benefit from an organisation of that kind.

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Building the Nation.

They hoped to make the conditions of agriculture more attractive to those who would become prospective settlers in Queensland. They hoped to get advice from such an organisation to assist them to solve problems relating to administration and settlement—the opening of land to settlement and the carrying on of the Agricultural Department generally. The Agricultural Department would gain immeasurably from the establishment of an effective organisation amongst the farmers, if the farmers would look at it in the spirit in which he was putting it forward. He commended it to their consideration, and invited them to speak plainly and frankly, and hide nothing. He would like to get a confirmation from this Conference, as representative of one branch of agriculture—and, perhaps, the most important branch of agriculture—of the necessity for the formation of an organisation on these lines. As he mentioned at the outset, the form of the organisation did not matter, the name of it did not matter; it was merely a question of getting it launched; it would soon evolve its methods of organisation and constitution without any outside direction. (Applause.)

The Scheme Supported.

Mr. P. K. POWER (Australian Dairy Farmers' Association): He congratulated the Government on the scheme they had put forward. If such a scheme had been established ten years ago, the country would not have been in the position it was in to-day; but these things could never come too late. The organisation he belonged to only started at the beginning of the year, and it was carried out on non-political lines, similar to the scheme which the Premier had outlined to-day. Up to the present, they have been very successful on the Burnett. They had all fallen in with the proposal, which was on non-political lines. He believed that, on non-political lines, there would be no difficulty in launching the scheme proposed by the Premier. The Minister had apologised for having hurriedly called the Conference together, but he (Mr. Power) did not think the honourable gentleman need apologise, because the Conference had come at a critical time, and could not have been delayed any longer, as there were many farmers in a precarious condition. The Minister had touched on the subject of herd testing, and improvement in that direction would make things better in the dairying line, but if they tested the herds and then culled them out, and sold the culls to other dairymen, it would not improve the herds generally. He thought the plan which the Premier had advanced was one which they should all fight for; it was what they had been fighting for in his own district already. For his part he was willing to help the Premier in any way he could in this matter.

Farmers in Sympathy with the Premier's Proposals.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Cooroy) endorsed what the Premier had said. He represented a dairy association, and there were fifty similar associations which had sprung up in Queensland, showing how much the farmers and dairymen were in sympathy with the scheme which the Premier had put forth. It was a question whether it would be wise to sectionalise the farming industry. It might be advisable for dairymen and those connected with subsidiary products of dairying to join together. They would then have a combined interest with which to go before the central council. The fruitgrowers might combine in

the same way. The programme put forward by the Premier was similar to the policy of his association, which they had enunciated in a leaflet which they had issued. If the different sections of producers were united in their respective interests they would be able to bring weight before the central council in regard to their needs.

Mr. HOLTON: He understood that the scheme outlined by the Premier would at once sweep to one side all existing organisations.

The PREMIER: No, not to sweep them aside but to absorb them if they are not party organisations.

Mr. HOLTON: He took it that there would be no room for any organisation outside this scheme. The main disability under which the farmer had been labouring, in addition to the want of unity, had been with regard to getting funds to carry on the associations. He hoped the Premier would indicate on what lines the necessary fees to carry on this association successfully would be obtained.

The Question of Sectional Organisation.

The PREMIER: Perhaps he had better answer these queries as they were raised. Two points were raised by the last two speakers—the question of sectional organisation; the organisation of the various branches in compartments, but co-ordinated under the central council of agriculture. That was the intention, although the scheme might not perhaps define it too clearly. It was merely a skeleton, and the provisional council would have to go into the question of drafting a constitution. If the organisation was established, the organisation itself would provide an effective and proper constitution. Anyone could see that they would have a top-heavy, ineffective organisation if they had the men concerned in fruitgrowing, wheatgrowing, dairying, and sugar-growing all combined together on the same board to deal with the details of those respective industries. They would not be interested in the same problems at all. Therefore, the various branches would be segregated for the consideration of their own particular problems, but they would all be linked up with the Council of Agriculture, which would look after the interests of the organisation as a whole. The dairymen must have their own authority controlling their own affairs, and the fruitgrowers likewise. The wheatgrowers would also deal with problems which concerned only themselves. But they would all be linked together in one central council of agriculture, and they would exercise a force as a united body of farmers and could be utilised as required.

Financing Preliminary Organisation.

With regard to financing, he realised the difficulty of launching such an organisation, because of the necessity of having considerable funds at the initial organising period. It was always a difficulty in launching a big organisation to get it going properly, because they might have to spend thousands of pounds before it would be properly established. As it was a semi-public undertaking, and as it was for the benefit of the State, he thought that the State ought to carry the initial cost of establishing the central council of agriculture. A staff would be appointed to direct the organisation. They would appoint organisers in the various districts, the organisers coming from among the farmers themselves. The Government

would pay them for the first twelve months, and after that the central council would devise means for carrying them on. For a time it might be necessary for them to receive Government assistance even after the twelve months. In America they found it wise for the Government to grant financial assistance and pay the entire salaries of the county agents, and they also gave the organisation the use of their expert agriculturists. In fact, they were put under the direction of the organisation. The same thing ought to be done in Queensland. If they had experts in dairying or in stock, and the same with experts in fruitgrowing, experts in dealing with pests and disease, and so on, they could be put in the districts where they could be best used. Their services could be controlled by the district councils formed under this organisation. The American Farm Bureau levied their members to the extent of 50 cents, about 2s., a year. It was not a large sum, but it provided a big fund. It might be necessary to go further than that in Queensland, but they could devise a financial system which would enable their affairs to be carried on successfully. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said that the scheme had been outlined by the Premier for the organisation of the agricultural industry, and printed copies of the scheme had been circulated amongst the members assembled. He suggested that someone might move the general approval of the scheme, as he gathered that they were in favour of it.

Mr. DOUGLAS moved that the remarks of the Premier be endorsed by the meeting, and that his scheme be approved of.

Mr. DEAN seconded the motion.

Mr. J. PURCELL suggested the motion be amended to read—

> "That this Conference approves of the scheme of organisation outlined by the Premier, and is of opinion that necessary action be taken to bring the scheme into operation at once."

Mr. DOUGLAS accepted the amended motion, and in this form it was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF DAIRY REPRESENTATIVES.

The PREMIER suggested that the meeting should appoint the representatives of the dairy industry to the provisional Council of Agriculture. Afterwards the council would become a permanent body. Neither the Minister for Agriculture nor himself could give much personal attention to the details of the organising work, and it was not desirable they should do it. The work should be in the hands of the council quite independent of politicians. The council would have to appoint its own organisers, and pay them a good salary. Those present, as representing one branch of the agricultural industry, could appoint their representatives, and the fruitgrowers and canegrowers could appoint their representatives later on. He suggested that they should appoint their five representatives. The Government would, at a later date, appoint five members to represent the Government on the council. In all probability Mr. Story, Public Service Commissioner, would be one of those representatives. Mr. Story possessed excellent organising ability and had assisted him greatly in

formulating this scheme. He had given great consideration to agricultural education, perhaps more than any other man in the State, and the council would look to him for advice. He suggested that the five representatives be appointed.

Mr. STAFFORD moved—

"That the five dairy representatives be chosen by the Advisory Board appointed that day."

Mr. WINNETT seconded the motion.

Mr. WARREN opposed the motion. He had every confidence in the members of the Advisory Board, but he thought the council should be elected by the farmers themselves. He knew it was difficult to get meetings of farmers, and he quite understood that, as the farmers worked hard and had no time to attend meetings. It was hard for a farmer to make a living out of his farm now, and that was the reason his sons migrated to the cities, where the conditions of employment were better than on a farm. That was bad for the country, and was increasing the population of Brisbane at the expense of the country. If they could only get rid of party politics they would have a much better country, and he would like to see the Premier come out as a non-party politician. (Loud laughter and applause.) He would oppose the motion, and moved as an amendment—

"That the members be appointed from the delegates present."

Mr. PETERSON (Killarney) seconded the amendment.

A Forward Move.

Mr. SLOAN congratulated the Chairman and the Premier on the proposition they had put forward. Dairying and other agricultural pursuits were good for the State and should be fostered. The Premier had taken a forward move in inviting the representatives of the dairy industry to meet to discuss this proposition. The more they could raise the status of the farming industry, educationally and otherwise, the better it would be for their children. They should put party politics on one side and embrace this opportunity. He had gathered from the remarks of the Premier and Chairman that there was a possibility of the party political system being abolished. He hoped to see it abolished and that all would be working for the good of the State. He did not agree with placing in the hands of the six men who had been elected to the Advisory Board the power to elect the grand council. He had been in favour of the election of the Advisory Board, not exactly because he believed in the men on it, but because the dairy industry was in such a critical position that they had to give some opportunity of rendering assistance in the near future. They had, therefore, sunk all differences and elected the Advisory Board. The Premier pointed out the delay which would ensue by referring the matter of the election of the board to their organisations. The various associations might turn round and say that the Conference had no right to elect a central council without reference to the associations, as there was no hurry for it. Let the delegates, therefore, go back and place the matter before their associations to be decided by ballot. If this Advisory Board was going to be truly representative of the dairy industry, they would want loyalty amongst the co-operative factories. They had had a little experience in his district some time ago in illustration of this. They joined a pool and also the co-operative association of Queensland.

They found that one of the co-operative factories of that association was shipping butter to Townsville and under-selling them. They wrote to the company and also to Mr. Harris, and offered their butter to him at 1½ per cent. less than they were selling it in Townsville, but the offer was refused. It should be understood that they could not turn round and cut each other's throats. None of the farmers wanted to squeeze the consumer. They were out to get a fair value for their products, and to enable the consumer to get a fair wage, so that he could buy butter at a reasonable price. They must fix the price of butter to the consumer in accordance with the cost of production. The practice had been to fix the price to the consumer first, and to leave an inadequate price for the farmer. He had received a wire from his association that he was not to jeopardise or in any way pledge them until they knew the position fully.

Mr. HEMBROW (Roma): One of the previous speakers said that he should go back to his company to explain matters. His own opinion was that the delegates were there representing the shareholders of their companies. He was prepared, on behalf of his company, to take the responsibility of voting on the question before them. It would take a good deal of time for them to go back and consult all the suppliers of each factory and advise them what to do. The suppliers would simply take their advice on the matter if they went back to them, so that it was quite competent for the Conference to elect the members of the council.

Mr. G. GRAHAM said he understood the Premier to say that the six members of the Advisory Board would be subservient to the council.

The PREMIER: He did not use the word subservient: he said in some sense subordinate to the council. He did not mean that they would be under the supervision of the council. The exact nature of their functions and duties would depend upon what the organisation itself evolved. If there was to be a central council of agriculture it was bound to be the supreme authority in the Queensland Producers' Association. Once having set up an Advisory Board to undertake certain functions they must not then interfere with the Advisory Board; but the council would be the superior authority, in the sense that it would control everything, but it would not interfere with members of district councils or of the Advisory Board in the special work allotted to those authorities. Each would have their own functions, but the council would be the highest authority in the association. It was obvious, or it ought to be obvious, that it was impossible to outline a scheme and settle every detail at the commencement. The scheme must grow and the constitution must be evolved as time went on. All they could lay down at the start was the basis on which the scheme could be established. They were now discussing the council of agriculture, which would have important functions, and they could launch the council and organise the district councils and formulate a constitution to work on at the start. While dong that the council would lay down the lines of action which ought to be adopted. When he used the term that the Board was a subordinate body to the council, he thought that in their own sphere they should be the final authority.

Mr. G. GRAHAM: The council will be supreme?

The PREMIER: It will be the executive head.

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Mr. G. Graham: The Council can override the Advisory Board.

The PREMIER: No, not in the matters referred to the Advisory Board for their investigation and decision. The functions of both ought to be defined. The council would be a consultative board on all branches of agriculture, and would consider all problems relating to agriculture. The council would have the right to lay down plans and make recommendations for the agricultural industry as a whole, so in that sense it would be the superior authority; but each Advisory Board would look after its own functions. He was not wedded to any particular form of control. This was a tentative scheme, and he thought it was a workable one, and they could alter it to suit the existing conditions as time went on.

Mr. SLOAN asked if the Advisory Board brought forward any matter which conflicted with the council, which opinion would prevail.

The PREMIER: It was not necessary to attempt to deal with every problem at the start. The council would have to use discretion. Say the fruit-fly trouble was brought forward, the council might decide that that was a matter that could be best dealt with by the Advisory Board for the fruit industry, but they would find out the best way of dealing with these matters as time went on. Other matters might be referred to the Agricultural Department, and matters referred to the Agricultural Department might be sent to the council or the Advisory Board. Common sense would have to be exercised when referring matters to different bodies for investigation and attention. There might be overlapping for a start, but as the scheme evolved they would get over that difficulty.

Mr. SLOAN thought the Advisory Boards would be antagonistic to the council of Agriculture.

The PREMIER: If matters arose which affected more than one branch of the agricultural industry it would be dealt with by the council. The council would have the means for adjusting differences, and in that sense would be the final authority.

Mr. HOLTON pointed out that, according to the Premier's scheme, the council would have the same functions to attend to as the Advisory Board elected that day.

The PREMIER pointed out that those functions were allotted to the Advisory Board that day because the council of agriculture was not yet in existence, nor could the council exercise those functions until the Queensland Producers' Association was firmly established; but as soon as the council became a permanent body they would take over those functions set out in the scheme. The Advisory Board would then deal with particular matters, such as a pool or the co-ordination of co-operative companies. Experience would show them what functions to take from the Advisory Board.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS thought it would mean too much delay to go back to the co-operative companies to elect the five dairy representatives. He thought they should be elected that night.

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Mr. STAFFORD stated that they had already appointed an Advisory Board, and if they appointed five members from the dairymen to act on the council they would be supreme to the Advisory Board. He thought they should appoint five members from the Advisory Board to act as their representatives on the council.

Mr. ANDERSON stated that they appointed the six best men on the Advisory Board, and now they were going to appoint the next best five, who would be supreme over the best six on the Advisory Board.

The PREMIER: It does not matter whether you select the same men or five additional men.

Mr. G. GRAHAM: If the six men appointed to the Advisory Board were elected they would have a jolly sight too much to do, as he understood they would have to do all the organising. There was a chap called "Pooh Bah," and those six men would be in the same position if elected to the council.

The PREMIER: It might be advisable to lay it down that until they had the organisation established, or at any rate formed in such a manner that it would have some effective force, they should not exercise any jurisdiction over the present Advisory Board. The council they were electing was only the council to prepare for the organisation, and not to exercise all those functions that were in the objective. Therefore it might be necessary, in order to prevent any misunderstanding of their powers, that it be provided that they do not exercise any jurisdiction over the Advisory Board until the lapse of a certain time.

Mr. W. T. HARRIS: The Advisory Board which had been elected had special functions in looking after the resolutions passed at the Conference, whereas the central council would have different functions altogether. One of the functions of the council would be to organise the farmers, and the power would be conferred upon them to see that the State was divided into certain divisions wherein district councils and associations could be formed. It was therefore necessary to elect another five men to do that organising.

Mr. SLOAN: He was not objecting to five men being appointed, but he was in favour of Queensland being divided into different divisions, and the agriculturists in those divisions given the opportunity of selecting the best men in the division. If those five men were appointed by the Conference, they would probably comprise men from districts from Maryborough down; and, as the Chairman was well aware, the Atherton District would soon overshadow any other dairying district in Queensland, and the dairymen in North Queensland should therefore have an opportunity of selecting a member of the council.

Mr. PRITCHARD: It would save a good deal of overlapping if they specified that the Advisory Board should work for twelve months until the farmers were properly organised. The council of agriculture could then take the place of the Advisory Board.

Mr. AUSTIN: The Conference had elected an Advisory Board specially to look after the dairying industry, and they were going to be very busy during

the next twelve months. If they carried out thoroughly the responsibilities they had undertaken, they would have their work cut out. They wanted an efficient body of men on the central council—men of organising ability—and they should get the very best men available. The scheme was ripe, and his advice was to let it go on and do not endanger it by an error of tactics.

Mr. GEORGE BURTON (Wyreema): As it was impossible for the Conference to elect members to the council from other industries, would it not be fairer to defer the matter till later on?

The PREMIER: They had there the most representative body for such an election that could be got together.

Mr. HOPPER: He took it that they had elected an Advisory Board to look after the butter and cheese industries. That was the special business they had to centralise on. In addition to that, it was necessary to organise the farming industry generally, and it was quite possible that men capable of looking after the business end of the stick were not capable of looking after the industrial end. The farmers themselves were their worst enemies, and to protect them they must protect them against themselves. They must organise from one end of Queensland to the other. The Advisory Board would be in a more central position, where they could get a better inside knowledge into the marketing problem.

Mr. McDONALD (Central Queensland Dairymen's Company): The position might be cleared up somewhat if they could come to an understanding as to the life of the central council. He took it that it was not the intention of the Premier to bring the central council into being that evening by the mere appointment of five representatives from the dairying industry.

The PREMIER: It would take a month at least to constitute it fully.

Mr. McDONALD: The appointment of an Advisory Board was necessary because of the parlous state of the dairying industry, and it would be most unfortunate it any action by that board had to stand over pending the appointment of a central council.

The PREMIER: That was not involved. The Advisory Board could go straight on with their work. They would not have to wait on the constitution of the central council.

Mr. McDONALD: He would give the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture all the encouragement possible in regard to bringing about the proposed scheme; at the same time it would be disastrous should it happen that the functions of the Advisory Board should be curtailed in any way. If they could appoint a time during which the Advisory Board could act independently of the central council, it would overcome a great deal of the difficulty with which they were faced.

Mr. HOLTON: He would like to take that opportunity of complimenting the Premier and the Secretary for Agriculture on bringing the dairymen together. There had been various meetings of dairymen, but no such representative meeting as the Conference, and he must compliment the Premier on the appointment

of an Advisory Board. Certainly, it was a foregone conclusion, and they could not have appointed better men. The mover of this motion might have been quite right. They had appointed good men, who knew the dairy business from A to Z, and who could easily have selected the five men for the council.

Mr. PURCELL: He would like to ask the Premier whether the central council would have to personally organise the industry. If so, it was necessary to have members of the Advisory Board on the council.

The PREMIER: He was glad the question was asked, as it gave him the opportunity to point out that the council of agriculture would not have to do the organising work personally. It could not be expected, because the council of agriculture consisted of fifteen representatives of the agricultural industry and the five Government representatives. The council would really constitute an executive, and in that capacity they would direct the course of organisation. Under the heading of "District Councils," it was stated—

> "In every district determined upon by the council of agriculture there shall be established a district council. This council shall be constituted by representatives of each of the local producers' associations. The district organisers appointed by the council of agriculture shall be members of the district council for the district in which they are acting."

It implied that the council of agriculture would have a director appointed with the view of getting the thing launched without any delay. They would recollect that he had wired to Mr. Gullett, whose organising capacity was well known, and they would have appointed that gentleman to the position of director if he would have accepted the position. If the scheme he had outlined to the Conference was acceptable to them, it was his intention to leave the appointment of a suitable person to the position of organising director to the council of agriculture. If they could get a man like Mr. Gullett to carry on organisation under their direction, they could appoint him. Let them appoint the district organisers from amongst the farmers themselves, and the work would go on. He did not want the members of the council to go out organising. No doubt they would do a certain amount of propaganda in the district from which they came. They could place the work of organisation in the hands of district officers. He could mention half a dozen men in the room who with himself could organise the work in three months, and the council might do the same thing. He wanted to launch the movement so that the machinery could be established, and the organisation would follow. He was satisfied that the farmers in the various districts would respond. Scores of letters had come into his department and the Department of Agriculture welcoming the proposal for an organisation. The council would organise the staff they employed, and get the most capable man as director for the purpose of keeping the thing going.

The CHAIRMAN put Mr. Warren's amendment—that five members should be elected by the meeting to represent the dairying industry on the council of agriculture—which was carried.

Report of Proceedings of Dairy Conference.

Mr. MORWOOD moved: "That three men representing the butter industry, and two representing the cheese industry, be elected by the Conference as representatives on the council of agriculture." These men, he thought, would be the men best qualified to sit on the council.

Mr. PRITCHARD seconded the amendment.

Mr. SLOAN: He took it that the six men who were elected to the Advisory Board would receive a salary for their services.

The CHAIRMAN: The Government will pay them.

The PREMIER: The members of the Advisory Board must receive a fee for the time lost while serving on the board. They must receive their travelling allowance and a certain allowance for the time lost. It would be different under the permanent organisation. He did not know whether the permanent organisation, when it was formed, would allow any fees either to the members of the district council or of the council of agriculture. In the first three months members would be called together to consider organising and direct matters, and they should be compensated for their loss of time, and no doubt the Government would provide for that; but the question as to what the permanent policy of the Government would be with regard to the members of the council of agriculture was a matter for future consideration.

Mr. WARREN: For the first twelve months the function of the council of agriculture would be to organise. Some of the best organisers were not on the Advisory Board. He had in his mind two men who had had vast experience in organising, and if the motion was carried those men would be cut out.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment is a negative of the motion, and it is out of order.

Mr. O'SHEA (Strathpine) asked if the members of the Advisory Board were eligible to sit on the council of agriculture as representatives of the dairying interests?

Mr. DOUGLAS thought they were asking the members of the Advisory Board to do too much. It would be better to let them do their work on the Advisory Board and not appoint them to the council at all. It would be no detriment to those men to appoint five others to the council.

Mr. SLOAN said the representatives on the council would have different functions to the Advisory Board. They would appoint the organisers in the different districts according to the geographical positions.

Mr. McANALLY moved a further amendment—

> "That the gentlemen who have been appointed as members of the Advisory Board are ineligible to sit on the council of agriculture."

Mr. HOPPER seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried by 35 votes to 19.

Report of Proceedings of Dairy Conference.

The CHAIRMAN called for nominations to fill the five positions as dairy representatives on the council, and the following were nominated:—Messrs. McAnnally (Dalby), Douglas (Cooroy), Pentecost (Brisbane), J. Purcell (Toowoomba), Sloan (Atherton), Winnett (Kingston), Fitzgerald (Cambooya), Power (Burnett), and Todd (Warwick).

On resuming it was decided to elect the five members by ballot, and the election was then held.

The CHAIRMAN announced the result of the ballot as follows:—

Mr. H. McAnally (Dalby)	32 votes
Mr. A. S. Douglas (Cooroy)	38 votes
Mr. J. Purcell (Toowoomba)	55 votes
Mr. W. J. Sloan (Atherton)	44 votes
Mr. J. T. Tod (Warwick)	44 votes

That was an absolute majority, and he declared those five gentlemen duly elected by the Conference.

Mr. DOUGLAS asked the Premier whether he thought it wise to proceed with the various organisations that were now being formed in the country and then bring them under the bureau system later on.

The PREMIER: The best course to be adopted in regard to that matter would be to arrange for the conversion of those organisations that were now existing or about to be established into the local producers' associations that would be established under the scheme. When he met the fruitgrowers at Stanthorpe, the council of fruitgrowers there practically made the suggestion that their organisation was willing to come *en bloc* into the new organisation. It would mean, of course, that that organisation of fruitgrowers would have to adopt for their rules the rules provided by the council of agriculture for the local producers' associations. They would dissolve the old association and form themselves into a new association. The same thing could be done with the Farmers' Alliance, dairymen's associations, and various other associations of that kind, but there might be some organisations amongst the farmers which took part in political affairs, and he did not desire to dissolve their existing organisations. There would be no necessity in such case for them to dissolve, but it would assist the scheme if the existing organisations throughout the State would agree to merge into the large organisation. Facilities for that would be provided by the council of agriculture.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Would it be wise to suggest that those organisations join up with the different sections of the farming industry—the dairymen with the dairymen's associations, and the fruitgrowers with the fruitgrowers' associations, and so on?

The PREMIER: That was how it would be arranged. There were five great branches of the agricultural industry—fruit growing, wheat growing, dairying, sugar, and general farming. In each of those five branches there would be the sectional organisations, and those associations that were now organised in any one branch could easily be merged in the particular sectional organisation under the scheme.

Report of Proceedings of Dairy Conference.

Mr. JOHNSTON (provisional director of the new co-operative company being formed at Rockhampton) moved: "That Conference of dairymen place on record the appreciation shown by the Premier and Secretary for Agriculture towards the dairymen and farmers of Queensland."

Mr. McINTYRE (Mount Tyson): He was very pleased to be there to express similar opinions with regard to the Premier and the Secretary for Agriculture, and to express his thanks to them for the assistance they had given to the wheatgrowers in particular. The wheat pool instituted by the Government had been of great assistance to the wheatgrowers. If the Premier could better the conditions of the man on the land by the action he had taken, he deserved the thanks, not only of the farming community, but of the whole of Queensland and of the whole of Australia. (Hear, hear!) The Premier in his address stated that the farming industry was stationary—that it was not progressing. It was not progressing, and as far as his part of the country was concerned it was retrogressing. If the Premier, by the action he was taking, could stop that retrogression it would be a great achievement, and he would deserve the thanks of the men on the land.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: The Premier and himself appreciated the hearty vote of thanks which had been tendered to them, but the Government were equally grateful to the farmers present for attending the Conference. He considered that the Conference had been very successful. There was a lot of work in front of the members of the Advisory Board, who would find that they had assumed great responsibilities, but with that responsibility there was power to do things.

The CHAIRMAN then declared the Conference closed.

THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD.

Pursuant to the decisions of the Dairy Conference, the Advisory Board for the Dairying Industry has been constituted as follows:—

Chairman: Mr. E. Graham, Chief Dairy Expert (Government Representative).

Members.

Butter Section: Messrs. W. T. Harris, T. Flood Plunkett, and W. E. Dean.

Cheese Section: Messrs. William Purcell and Henry Keefer.

Condensed Milk Section: Mr. G. Burton.

Secretary: Mr. W. H. Franklin, Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Two sittings have taken place, at which consideration was given to the following matters and recommendations made to the Minister accordingly:—

The better service and design of trucks conveying butter, cream, and cheese to and from the factories.

Report of Proceedings of Dairy Conference.

The necessity for adequate provision being made for the cold storage of dairy produce at this port.

A reduction of rail freights covering dairy products in their manufactured state in transit to market.

Consideration was given to the obtaining of information concerning the market conditions of dairy produce in all available markets.

The matter of herd testing was fully discussed in all its phases, and a recommendation was made to the Minister for Agriculture requesting that consideration be given to increasing the number of stud dairy stock at the Queensland Agricultural College, with the view of assisting to provide the stud bulls necessary to supplant the inferior animals now employed in many dairy herds.

Information is being obtained as to the complement of stud bulls now available.

The Board unanimously endorsed the necessity of bringing into greater prominence the conservation of fodder, especially in the form of ensilage on dairy farms, and intend to urge dairy farmers to give attention to the construction of silos under a co-operative scheme as soon as the organisation will permit of such action being taken.

The improvement in the quality of dairy produce was considered by the Board, and the fullest information is being obtained concerning the results of pasteurisation of both milk and cream in other dairying countries; and the Board expect at a later date to be able to furnsh definite particulars in regard to the improvement in quality that may be effected by pasteurisation, also cost of plants, installation, &c.

The Board will sit again on Thursday, 6th April, in the room allotted for its use, at the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Stock, Brisbane.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER.

The Minister for Agriculture (Hon. W. N. Gillies, M.L.A.), in the course of a statement to the Press, on his return from Tasmania, referred to a big Government water power scheme now approaching completion in the Island State. *Inter alia*, Mr. Gillies said:—

"What impressed me most, and which more than anything attracted me to Tasmania, was the Tasmanian Government hydro-electric power scheme, involving a probable expenditure of £2,750,000, which was started nearly six years ago. The scheme is not yet complete, but the power at present being generated is equal to 18,000 kilowatts or 20,000 horse-power, and is being supplied to various power users, including the Hobart Municipality for its tramways. It is also being supplied to the electrolytic zinc works at Risdon at about 50s. per horse-power per annum. The carbide works at Electrona use 3,500 horse-power, and will eventually use 7,500. Cadbury, Fry, and Co.'s works at Claremont are also supplied. In my opinion, cheap motive power being of such importance, nothing has been attempted that will be of greater benefit to Tasmania."

We have no great natural lakes in Queensland, but we have numerous great waterfalls, with power and water running to waste. We also have rivers that can be cheaply dammed, and thus create artificial lakes for power and also irrigation.

Organisation of the Agricultural Industry. A State-wide Co-operative Scheme.

ENRICHMENT OF RURAL LIFE.

A Summary of an Address by the Premier, the Hon. E. G. Theodore, M.L.A., to the farmers of the Laidley District, focusing the effects modern social and economic changes are having upon the primary industries, outlining a scheme for the State-wide and effective organisation of the Agricultural Industry, and explaining generally a far-reaching and constructive rural policy.

PREMIERS' ADDRESS TO LAIDLEY FARMERS.

On 21st February, before a large and representative gathering of farmers of the Laidley district, the Premier (the Hon. E. G. Theodore, M.L.A.) discussed the difficulties confronting primary producers, suggested solutions of present problems, and sketched a broad and practical scheme for the general betterment of the agricultural industry and the enrichment of rural life.

The main points of the Premier's address are summarised as follows:—

The Importance of Agriculture—

The Government has never underrated the importance of agriculture. It has always recognised that the future of the State is intimately associated with the soil, and agriculture is the basis of all our future hopes. No one has a greater claim to be regarded as a worker than the man who tills the soil; and no one is more entitled to participate in shaping the policy and governing the affairs of this State than the members of that great and influential class. The farmer is the mainstay of our civilisation and the most indispensable worker in the community. The Government recognises the importance of the cultivators of the soil and the acuteness of their problems. The main features of its policy are those dealing with the encouragement of agriculture and the protection of the man on the land. Much of the time and energy of the Government, since 1915, have been devoted to translating that platform into effect, as is evidenced by the following list of legislative and administrative achievements:—

1. **Cane Prices Regulation,** which for the first time in Queensland ensured to the cane-growers a fair price for their product. It can reasonably be claimed that this scheme has benefited the cane-farmers to the extent of not less than one million pounds sterling since 1915.

2. **The Sugar Acquisition Agreements.**—These agreements have stabilised the price of sugar, and made the sugar industry the most prosperous business in the State. In 1915 the value of the sugar products of this State was computed at £1,500,000; in 1921 it had increased to over £9,000,000.

3. **The Repeal of the Railway Guarantee.**—This measure relieved the farmer of the railway land tax.

4. **The Queensland Wheat Pool,** which enables the wheat crops to be marketed under better conditions than ever obtained in the past.

5. **Advances to Settlers.**—The entire system of State advances to new selectors has been liberalised and brought up to date.

6. **Co-operative Agricultural Production.**—The Government instituted the system of advances for the purchase of dairy cattle. Advances under this Act have been made to 552 farmers.

7. **Cold Stores for Farmers' Produce.**—The Government is erecting a modern cold store with a capacity of 600,000 cubic feet of cold storage space for butter, cheese, fruit, vegetables, and eggs.

8. **Main Roads Scheme.**—The Government has launched a comprehensive policy for the improvement of the main roads of the State. Particular attention is being given to the roads in agricultural districts.

9. **Cotton Cultivation.**—A guaranteed fair price is being granted to the producers of cotton by the Government, with the result that this industry is rapidly expanding.

10. **Relief to Settlers on Repurchased Estates.**

11. **Amendment of Income Tax Act.**—This enables the farmer to carry forward the losses of previous years when calculating his income for taxation purposes. Queensland is the first State to carry this reform.

12. **Drought Time Assistance to Farmers.**—The Government dealt generously at all times during the droughts of 1915 and 1919 when they were appealed to by the farmers. Seed wheat and fodder for starving stock were distributed on the most generous terms. As much as 87,000 bushels of seed wheat were distributed among 1,400 farmers in one year. Aid in many other ways was given to farmers during the drought period.

In addition to the foregoing, the Government has responded to every reasonable request made by farmers for protection and encouragement. The following measures have been passed solely in the interests of the agricultural industry:—

Cheese Pool Act.
Banana Industry Preservation Act.
Fertiliser Act.
Stock Foods Act.
Diseases in Stock Act.
Brands Act.
Supervision of Produce Agents.
Research for Eradication of Pests.
Marketing of Farmers' Wool.
Fruit-growing Instruction.
Free Soil Analyses for Farmers.
Cheap Arsenic for the Destruction of Prickly-pear.
Pure Seeds Act.

The Producer and Consumer—Identity of Interest—

In recent times there has been a distinct move towards the amalgamation of the forces of the farming community and city consumers for the purpose of giving effect to a mutually beneficial programme of legislation and reform. This movement has gained great headway in the United States of America and in Canada. An identity of interest is recognised by both these inter-dependent sections; and this is expressed by a platform mutually agreed upon, and which is by force of combination being gradually forced into effect.

A comprehensive and constructive policy for the future development and encouragement of agriculture is the greatest need in this State at the present time.

A prosperous and expanding agricultural industry and a contented rural population should be our most serious aim.

In Queensland we have passed the gold era, and have not yet begun a manufacturing era; but we are on the threshold of a great agricultural era.

We have been endowed by Providence with a wonderful heritage—a land which is richer in natural resources, climate, and fertility than any other undeveloped country on earth.

It is to agriculture, and to the industries dependent on agriculture, that we must turn our attention in formulating future policies.

A large measure of our future energy and constructive ability must be devoted to the solution of agricultural problems.

A Tangible and Realisable Objective—

The Premier laid down the following as a tangible and realisable objective:—

1. Agriculture as an industry must be made a remunerative industry to those engaged in it.
2. The industry must be greatly extended, for only in that way can an additional population be absorbed; and it is only by increasing the population that we can reduce our per capita financial burdens.
3. The conditions of life of all country dwellers must be made more attractive than at the present time.

An agricultural policy, to be effective, must include proposals dealing with all of the following topics; these would constitute some of the leading planks of an agricultural programme:—

1. Co-operation.
2. Pools.
3. Advisory Boards for the different sections of the agricultural industry.
4. Agricultural education.
5. Main roads.
6. Extension of social amenities to rural life.
7. Opening land for settlement.
8. Representation abroad to promote trade for primary products.

Under the present limited extent of co-operation among those engaged in the primary industries, the farmers are the greatest sufferers from market fluctuations.

When depression occurs in the market price of products, the farmer has to bear almost the entire burden of the fall.

The middlemen gain most of the advantages by refusing to lower prices to the consumers.

When there is a rise in prices, the middlemen enjoy the benefits, for the simple reason that the increases in prices are not passed on to the producers.

Neither the producers nor the consumers gain any advantage from market fluctuations.

Effective Co-operation the Need.

The farmer by establishing effective co-operation can remove many of the difficulties that exist in connection with the marketing of his produce, and can eliminate a great deal of the middlemen's profits.

Co-operation is the best form of self-help for the man on the land.

In the United States of America the co-operative principle has been extensively developed in the farming community, with the result that farmers in that country are more prosperous than farmers in any other country of the world.

What has been done in the United States can be done in Queensland.

If farmers made use of the co-operative principle, they could solve all the problems relating to production, transportation, distribution, finance, and marketing of their products.

The Queensland Wheat Pool—

The Queensland Wheat Pool is a living example of what can be done by the farmers by co-operative effort.

The Queensland Wheat Pool is based upon pure co-operation.

The farmers constitute the Board of Management, formulate the policy, and direct the whole business of marketing the wheat crop, which previously was done solely by traders and commission agents.

The farmers had never managed this business before; but with little preparation they secured the necessary parliamentary authority, established the pool, appointed a staff, devised the machinery of administration, arranged the finances, and in the first year handled the whole crop of 4,000,000 bushels, which was a record crop for Queensland.

Speculating in wheat was prevented, middlemen's profits were eliminated, the business was managed for one-third the ordinary cost of marketing, and the farmers were paid the full value for their wheat.

What has been done by the farmers in connection with wheat can be done with all other staple products.

The Full Tide of Agricultural Co-operation—

It is not contended that co-operative action in the handling of other products can be done as easily as it was done with regard to wheat. The full tide of agricutural co-operation will not be realised until a great deal of

preliminary organisation has ben undertaken in the farming communities. This is necessary in order to educate the community up to the principles of the scheme and to prepare the way for the efficient management of a complex business. In America similar preliminary work has been undertaken by what are known as Farm Bureaux, which have been established in every farming locality.

The objects of this organisation are to encourage and promote co-operation among farmers in every effort to improve facilities for the economic and efficient production, conservation, marketing, and distribution of farm products. They also study the questions of constructive rural legislation and assist in the determination of agricultural policies. Procedure on similar lines is applicable to Queensland.

Some kind of basic organisation must be established among the farmers by the farmers themselves.

Through the agency of such an organisation the farmers will be assisted to solve the problems of production and marketing and become the driving force toward co-operative effort. These organisations would become the medium for the spread of knowledge and education, and would enable farmers to become articulate as a class, and a real force in the land.

District Agricultural Councils—

As an organisation corresponding with the American Farm Bureaux, the Premier advocated the establishment in all farming localities of District Councils of Agriculture; these to be linked up with a Central Council having jurisdiction over the whole State. These Councils should be elected by the farmers by direct vote, and should work in close co-operation with the Department of Agriculture.

The objects of the organisation should be to co-operate with the Department of Agricuture—

1. In the development of rural industries.
2. Investigating and dealing with agricultural problems.
3. In advising agriculturists with regard to matters which require scientific knowledge and training.
4. In securing effective action for the controlling of diseases and pests generally.
5. In securing improved markets for the disposal of farm produce.
6. In formulating a general policy of standardising.
7. To advise in regard to agricultural education and rural schools.
8. To recommend, when necessary, the formation of advisory boards or pools to deal with wheat, butter, cheese, fruit, or other sections of the industry.

If the scheme is favourably received by the farmers, they will unite themselves to take up the idea. The Government will give them every encouragement and assistance. In the United States, officials known as rural agents are appointed. These are men with practical and technical knowledge of agriculture, and of all problems relating to agriculture, who keep in close touch with the Farm Bureaux, and are of immense service in the farming

communities. It will be seen that, if the farmers are organised in the way suggested, the establishment of large co-operative schemes will be easy of attainment. Sporadic attempts at co-operation are useless. The cost of management in small co-operative enterprises is too high, and the management often inefficient. That is the reason why co-operation on a small scale often fails.

State-Wide Co-operation to Stabilise Markets.

If the farmers are willing to establish co-operation on a large scale, the Government will confer the necessary authority upon the co-operative associations, and, moreover, will back them financially. By State-wide co-operation embracing all sections of primary production, the industries will be emancipated from market manipulators. The movement will bring about stabilised prices for primary products. It will give farmers access to larger markets, and it will secure a better equilibrium of supply and demand. It will tend to reduce farm costs and costs of transportation, and will save the farmers from the evil effects of market gluts.

There is absolutely no reason why, under a properly managed system of co-operation, the whole of the products of the farming community should not be handled, marketed, and financed by the farmers themselves. The operations, necessarily, will be on a large scale; but the magnitude of the operations is no barrier to the success of the scheme.

The Wheat Pool Transactions—

The Wheat Pool transactions last year involved one million five hundred thousand pounds sterling. The Wheat Pool dealt with only one commodity. All primary produce—wheat, dairying, fruit, and, if necessary, wool produce from grazing farmers—could be handled under the scheme outlined by the producers without intermediate aid. The pool idea is merely the application of the commercial combine to the producing industry, but with this notable distinction:—That, where it is managed by farmers' co-operative societies, the profits and the whole advantage gained from efficient management and reduced costs are retained by the producers.

These proposals for the better organisation of the farmers by means of Agricultural Councils are advanced on the ground that such preliminary organisation is necessary to prepare the way for the real business of co-operative dealing on a large scale. The agricultural industry is bound to grow to very large dimensions in Queensland; and amongst the farmers there are men of brains, knowledge, and experience whose advice should be sought in connection with the formulation of an effective agricultural policy.

The Problem of Undeveloped Lands—

No rural policy would be complete which did not provide for the extension of agricultural settlement. This can be accomplished in Queensland by providing closer settlement on the areas now occupied, and by opening new Crown land for occupation. Both these modes will be adopted by the Government and proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

Considerable areas of good land owned by private individuals, but not put to any productive use, may be seen in various parts of the State adjacent to existing railway lines. The non-development of this land is seriously retarding the progress of the State. Large areas of idle land in the vicinity of existing settlements hamper the operations of the selectors. Such lands are

breeding grounds for pests, besides being responsible for sparse and scattered settlement. The Lands Department experts have been asked to study the question and report upon the best means of dealing with it.

Irrigation—

Surveys and investigations carried on by the Water Supply Department during the last two or three years have revealed the existence of several extensive, yet compact, areas eminently suited to the purpose of irrigation settlements. The Dawson River scheme embraces nearly a quarter of a million acres of irrigable lands of high quality, and a proposal for a reservoir which will have a capacity of over 1,000,000 acre feet of water. It is expected that this scheme will eventually accommodate upwards of 10,000 irrigation farmers.

Another scheme which has been very favourably reported on is that of the Lower Condamine, in the vicinity of St. George. A succession of weirs in the river between Warra and St. George will impound 150,000 acre feet of water, which will be sufficient to irrigate 50,000 acres of land. The soil and climate are both ideal for raisins and other dried fruits, or lucerne and like crops. As a fruit and dairying centre its future, if water is made available, is most promising. At least 1,000 families could be settled in this area. There were other highly-promising schemes beside those he had mentioned. The Mount Edwards proposal and the one on the Severn River are likely to be developed into valuable irrigation settlements at no distant date.

These schemes will be the means of increasing our rural population and the wealth production of our State to an enormous extent. But to carry them out the Government expects and requires the solid support of all our people who have the interests of agriculture at heart. There is a large and influential section in the cities always ready to hamper the Government in proposals of this kind, and throw cold water on development schemes that involve the expenditure of large sums of money in country districts. It is to combat these Queen-street interests that the Government appeals for the co-operation of the country residents.

An Improved System of Agricultural Education.

A consideration of the work being done by the present Agricultural College shows that the College is not satisfactorily fulfilling the purpose for which it was established. The Government has endeavoured to discover the causes which have militated against the success of this institution, and, at the same time, to devise plans for an extended and improved system of agricultural education.

In formulating a policy on this subject the Government may decide to discontinue the Agricultural College as it is constituted at present. An endeavour will be made to co-ordinate agricultural tuition with the general system of State education, providing thereby a scheme of agricultural secondary schools for all pupils leaving the primary schools who decide to take an agricultural course. The secondary course will lead up to the University for those who desire to avail themselves of the benefits of that institution.

Conditions of Rural Life—

It is undeniable that under existing conditions agricultural life is unattractive. There is an exodus of farmers' sons towards the cities. The towns grow large while the rural population remains stationary. This is an

evil which is grievously afflicting a great many countries at the present time. It is a problem which in Queensland we must solve at all cost: our future prospects are vitally connected with land settlement and an increase of rural population. It is our bounden duty, therefore, to encourage people to remain on the land, as well as to induce others to leave the towns and take up an agricultural career. To accomplish this, the life must be made endurable. The Government is willing to assist the farmers' organisations in any practicable schemes for the improvement of the social necessities of the rural commodities. The Councils of Agriculture, if they are established, will doubtless give attention to this vital problem.

Idealistic and Visionary Policies Useless—

The Premier invited the producers of the State to give earnest consideration to the policy he had outlined. It was by no means a policy spun out of political moonshine, but an earnest attempt to put forward a constructive policy for the development of the principal industry of this State, and the emancipation of the struggling farmer from the evils that at present beset him. Nor was it a policy shadowy and unattainable. It was the essence of practicability. He did not believe that all that was required was to "tickle the earth with a hoe and she will smile a harvest." The farmers were faced with the stern realities of existence, and idealistic and visionary policies were useless. The policy outlined was one that can be carried into effect if the farmers lend their support. It will take millions of pounds sterling to establish co-operation on the extensive scale advocated and to finance the projected development schemes; but the money is available, because this country has the resources. The capitalised energy and the resources of the man on the land ought to be good enough for a vast amount of credit to finance co-operative enterprise, even of gigantic dimensions. Cities and towns in this State are able to raise scores of millions in the aggregate for local enterprises, water supplies, tramway schemes, street lighting, and sewerage. What would the assets of the towns be worth if the agricultural industry ceased to exist? If city dwellers, who are dependent upon the prosperity of the primary industries, can raise millions of money for their schemes, surely the agricultural industry, whose resources are manifold, can capitalise these resources, if the credit to be raised is to be used to further enhance the wealth and productiveness of the State!

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE.

The representatives of the dairying industry on the Council of Agriculture, selected by the Dairy Conference, are:

Mr. H. McAnally (Dalby);

Mr. J. Purcell (Toowoomba);

Mr. W. J. Sloan (Atherton);

Mr. J. T. Tod (Warwick);

Mr. A. S. Douglas (Cooroy).

The selection of representatives of other branches of agriculture—sugar, wheat, fruit, and general farming—is now proceeding.

REPORT ON EGG-LAYING COMPETITION, QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, FEBRUARY, 1922.

The number of eggs laid during the month showed a decided decrease. Rain fell on 16 days out of the 28, consequently assisting the drop in production at this period of the test, when checks caused by broodiness and changeable climatic conditions have a tendency to encourage moulting. Mr. Fanning had the misfortune to lose his A. White Leghorn, the cause of death being a tumour on the left lung. The birds generally look bright, and are feeding very well. The following are the individual records:—

Competitors.	Breed.	Feb.	Total.
LIGHT BREEDS.			
*J. M. Manson	White Leghorns	111	1,448
*W. and G. W. Hindes	Do.	116	1,433
*T. Fanning	Do.	109	1,395
*Mrs. R. Hodge	Do.	106	1,391
*H. Fraser	Do.	100	1,350
R. Gill	Do.	73	1,314
Oakleigh Poultry Farm	Do.	98	1,271
*C. M. Pickering	Do.	82	1,264
*G. Trapp	Do.	63	1,259
F. Birchall	Do.	74	1,245
*W. Becker	Do.	82	1,225
*Thos. Taylor	Do.	91	1,209
*C. Goos	Do.	93	1,204
R. C. Cole	Do.	85	1,204
W. A. Wilson	Do.	95	1,201
*R. C. J. Turner	Do.	70	1,200
Mrs. E. White	Do.	101	1,198
*Thos. Eyre	Do.	70	1,195
H. C. Thomas	Do.	74	1,191
*S. L. Grenier	Do.	104	1,190
*H. C. Towers	Do.	63	1,190
*Mrs. L. Anderson	Do.	97	1,173
*E. Chester	Do.	86	1,167
*E. A. Smith	Do.	86	1,161
Bathurst Poultry Farm	Do.	85	1,161
*G. Williams	Do.	90	1,160
*J. W. Newton	Do.	57	1,153
J. W. Short	Do.	69	1,141
M. F. Newberry	Do.	76	1,136
*H. P. Clarke	Do.	89	1,122
Henry Stacey	Do.	75	1,121
*Haden Poultry Farm	Do.	89	1,120
*B. Chester	Do.	74	1,119
W. Barron	Do.	67	1,111
O. C. Goos	Do.	55	1,061
Linquenda Poultry Farm	Do.	95	1,049
Mrs. E. Z. Cutcliffe	Do.	63	1,031
E. Stephenson	Do.	63	1,016
W. N. Glover	Do.	64	974
Brampton Poultry Farm	Do.	75	973
*W. and G. W. Hindes	Brown Leghorns	78	972

EGG-LAYING COMPETITION—*continued.*

Competitors.	Breed.	Feb.	Total.
HEAVY BREEDS.			
T. Fanning	Black Orpingtons ...	103	1,396
*R. Burns	Do.	93	1,362
W. Becker	Langshans	117	1,352
*T. Hindley	Black Orpingtons ...	89	1,328
*A. E. Walters	Do.	75	1,312
*Parisian Poultry Yards	Do.	79	1,294
*C. C. Dennis	Do.	92	1,275
*J. Ferguson	Chinese Langshans ...	82	1,246
Jas. Ryan	Rhode Island Reds ...	94	1,227
*E. Morris	Black Orpingtons ...	87	1,226
G. Muir	Do.	74	1,215
Rev. A. McAllister	Do.	69	1,207
*E. F. Dennis	Do.	67	1,178
*J. Cornwell	Do.	91	1,170
*N. A. Singer	Do.	84	1,161
Jas. Every	Langshans	60	1,141
Jas. Potter	Black Orpingtons ...	71	1,126
*J. E. Smith	Do.	85	1,117
*E. Oakes	Do.	103	1,098
*R. Holmes	Do.	60	1,094
*H. M. Chaille	Do.	88	1,084
*Mrs. G. Kettle	Do.	100	1,081
G. Cumming	Do.	87	1,075
*A. Shanks	Do.	79	1,074
*E. Stephenson	Do.	72	1,073
J. W. Newton	Do.	64	1,013
F. Harrington	Rhode Island Reds ...	82	982
T. C. Hart	Black Orpingtons ...	87	933
Total	...	5,747	81,338

* Indicates that the pen is engaged in single test.

DETAILS OF SINGLE TEST PENS.

Competitors.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	Total.
LIGHT BREEDS.							
J. M. Manson	234	243	270	234	272	195	1,448
W. and G. W. Hindes (W.L.) ..	251	225	239	255	241	222	1,433
T. Fanning	247	226	255	220	221	226	1,395
Mrs. R. Hodge	230	233	257	238	241	192	1,391
H. Fraser	268	195	241	234	221	191	1,350
C. M. Pickering	235	219	223	190	210	187	1,264
Geo. Trapp	225	190	231	203	216	194	1,259
W. Becker	229	228	193	194	211	170	1,225
Thos. Taylor	208	200	201	173	182	245	1,209
C. Goos	212	223	178	151	174	266	1,204
R. C. J. Turner	204	193	200	197	191	215	1,200
Thos. Eyre	219	193	161	194	225	203	1,195
S. L. Grenier	194	227	172	205	201	191	1,190
H. C. Towers	205	183	208	165	186	243	1,190
Mrs. L. Anderson	207	211	181	192	206	176	1,173
E. Chester	223	187	180	187	188	202	1,167
E. A. Smith	237	165	214	200	191	154	1,161
G. Williams	258	207	166	165	193	171	1,160
J. W. Newton	206	220	230	190	128	179	1,153
H. P. Clarke	234	151	197	158	205	177	1,122
Haden Poultry Farm	128	191	213	204	189	195	1,120
B. Chester	157	172	213	194	204	179	1,119
W. and G. W. Hindes (B.L.) ..	152	174	149	117	150	230	972

DETAILS OF SINGLE TEST PENS—*continued.*

Competitors.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	Total.
HEAVY BREEDS.							
R. Burns	176	201	281	203	237	264	1,362
T. Hindley	234	230	246	179	206	233	1,328
A. E. Walters	262	224	219	202	200	205	1,312
Parisian Poultry Yards	222	218	207	289	156	202	1,294
C. C. Dennis	206	189	198	238	226	218	1,275
J. Ferguson	208	202	203	234	209	190	1,246
E. Morris	220	211	154	227	209	199	1,225
E. F. Dennis	193	206	195	177	194	213	1,178
J. Cornwell	162	208	191	214	181	214	1,170
N. A. Singer	210	190	179	198	172	212	1,161
J. E. Smith	242	262	170	129	160	154	1,117
E. Oakes	182	185	182	212	164	173	1,098
R. Holmes	155	200	193	188	203	155	1,094
H. M. Chaille	143	198	194	219	176	154	1,084
Mrs. G. Kettle	182	207	232	111	169	180	1,081
A. Shanks	151	181	176	193	166	207	1,074
E. Stephenson	214	175	195	197	136	156	1,073

CUTHBERT POTTS,
Principal.

SUGAR: FIELD REPORTS.

The Northern Field Assistant, Mr. E. H. Osborn, reports under date 6th March, 1922, as follows:—

"*Babinda.*—At the end of January crops had improved very much since my last visit, early in December. At that time the area known as Bucklands looked backward, but at the end of January the cane there had improved very much. Some fine crops of plant Badila were seen on the farms of Messrs D. O. James, Wilson, Irven, and Harrison, and also upon a few other farms adjacent to Mirriwinni.

"Around Mooliba, and on Cameron's Branch, some very good cane was noticed, the cane generally having a good growth and colour and being in a very clean state.

"Manuring has also been carried out much more extensively than formerly, and by its aid and the improved cultivation methods now in use, a good crop should result from this area. In a number of places plants obtained from the South Johnstone Experiment Station were noticed growing, and thus their suitability for local conditions can be ascertained by the interested farmers. Taking the Babinda area all around, its recent growth is most noticeable. Good roads are now being made to all of the outside areas.

"*Cairns and Hambledon Districts.*—Most of the cane seen in these areas also looks well. Near Kamma some very fine D.1135, both plant and ratoon, was noticed. This soil seems to suit this variety pretty well. No signs of grubs are apparent.

"For the past year Hambledon mill crushed 87,000 tons. By the present appearance of the crops, and also the fact that the Freshwater cane is now due for the mill, these figures should be easily exceeded for 1922.

"*Herbert River District.*—This centre was visited early in February. Up to that time the total rainfall for the year amounted to 2.82 in. Conditions, however, changed, as very heavy rain set in upon the 11th instant, continuing without intermission for six days, aggregating a total of 32.16 in. up to the 17th instant, or giving a daily average fall of 5.36 in. This torrential downpour meant that a very large portion of the cane areas was under water for some days, and it was impossible to say how the crops had fared at the time of my departure from the district. Prior to this fall, although short of rain, the crops generally looked very green and healthy, and the outlook for a successful season was most promising.

"A very large amount of liming, green manuring, and fertilizing is being carried out. Some 1,000 tons of earth lime obtained through the Farmers' League

has been used in preparatory work for this season's crop. This lime seems to be of a very good quality, and can be delivered on the farms at about £2 per ton. Several farmers are using large quantities of the lime; one has had 63 tons, whilst another, besides using about 60 tons, has another 30 tons on order.

"Green manuring has also formed an important part in the cultivation work of the district this year, and some very fine crops of beans are in evidence. Of fertilizers, a very large quantity has been used; but, as most of the farmers order their own, it was difficult to obtain a record of quantities used.

"Of the different varieties of cane grown in the district, H.Q.426 (Clark's Seedling), Badila, H.Q.409, Black Innis, and 7R.428 are the most grown. Probably the two former canes are grown in about the same proportion. A fair quantity of H.Q.409 is also now going in, as are also small quantities of the varieties lately being supplied by the C.S.R. Co., *i.e.*, Nanemo Korpi and Oarambo.

"Although beetles were very numerous in this area a couple of months ago, so far no signs of grubs are apparent.

"*Lower Burdekin.*—This district was reached in the third week of February; the cane looked splendid everywhere. With a continuance of favourable weather conditions, very heavy crops should be harvested on the Burdekin in the coming season. Some of the cane showed remarkably high density returns. During the end of September and throughout October canes such as H.Q. 426, B.208, and Badila were analysing from 19 per cent. c.c.s. to 19.7 per cent. c.c.s. This latter was B208, and was worth the high price of 78s. 6¾d. per ton. One grower's return of 800 tons gave him an average of 16.88 c.c.s. The following figures give the average density of green cane treated during the season:—

Variety.	Average c.c.s.
B.208 plant	17.34
Badila ratoons	17.04
Badila plant	16.40
H.Q.426 (Clark's Seedling) plant	16.25
Imperial plant	15.50
Q.813 plant	15.48
N.G.24 plant (Goru)	15.41
Q.903 plant	15.29
24B plant (Goru)	15.22
M.1900 plant	15.18
Q.970 plant	14.83
Q.855 plant	14.48
Malagache plant	13.99
Q.1133	13.10

"Around Kalamia a large area of ground is being got ready for planting, and conditions, generally, are very satisfactory."

The Southern Field Assistant, Mr. J. C. Murray, reports under date 7th March, 1922, as follows:—

"*Mackay.*—In February the Mackay district was visited in connection with the work of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. Taking the sugar industry as it exists at present in Mackay, one cannot help being struck by the progress the district has made during the last few years, especially regarding agricultural methods and in the employment of improved implements. There is also a larger interest now taken in varieties of cane, and there is a greater desire on the part of many growers to follow out the scientific experiments of the stations as found in the annual reports of the Bureau.

"Taking the sub-areas in detail, I find that immediately around the city of Mackay there are good crops of cane and well-tilled soil. Numbers of farmers have ploughed in cowpea as a green manure, in addition to stimulating their crop with a concentrated fertilizer. Manures are applied in varying quantities per acre, as previous experience or local experiments dictated. The application of lime is more general than hitherto, mostly taking the form of pulverized limestone.

"The canes giving the best monetary returns to the grower are H.Q.426, Q.813, D.1135, 190 Seedling, and Badila. All gave high c.c.s. values this year. It is advisable for those farmers who are growing 1900 Seedling not to cut to early. October is a good month to harvest this variety.

"More subsoiling could be done in ahe sub-area under review. Soil well loosened down to a depth of, say, 20 in. has greater water-conserving properties in dry weather and allows of a deeper root system.

"Cane pests have done a minimum of damage here this season. Farmers have reported minor destruction of cane plants by grubs and wire worms, but nothing of a serious nature.

"Further up the Pioneer, towards Marian and Pleystowe, good crops of cane are in evidence. At the former place a little striped leaf disease is showing in H.Q.426, and may account for the fluctuating c.c.s. tests that are occasionally mentioned. Canes doing particularly well at these two places are 1900 Seedling, Malagache, and Q.813. A small area is under H.Q. 285, and is looking well. This cane, grown in conjunction with 1900 Seedling, should be profitable on account of its early maturing qualities. Q.813 is a cane that has come to stay in these farm areas, and will probably become a staple variety.

"A visit was paid to the Mount Jukes district. There is some very good sugar-land in this area, and settlers who are already there are doing well. The Marian Sugar Milling Company has a tramline tapping the best land; and, judging by the cane growth and quality of the cleared land (soil of a rich dark loam, heavy in humus), should take a lot of cane from this locality.

"Good conditions prevail on Cattle Creek. Grubs have been giving the growers a little trouble, but no great financial loss has been experienced. There is some magnificent cane-producing soil both here and on Owen's Creek. The line is being pushed rapidly over the route of the Gargett-Owen's Creek Railway, much to the satisfaction of the settlers.

"With the exception of a little more cultivation, and, perhaps, lime, it would be difficult to improve much of the Pinnacle Plain country; that is, where the cane is grown. The soil is a heavy dark loam, very rich in humus, and well drained. Varieties that are growing well are D.1135, Clark's Seedling, Badila, and 1900 Seedling. In harvesting the latter variety, farmers are advised not to cut before October. Farmers find the D.1135 the most resistant to cane-grub attack.

"At the time of visiting this area, the various streams were running clear and strong, while the tropical jungle on the mountain slopes shone a vivid green. The weather was very hot and humid.

"At Eton the farmers are satisfied with their industry. High values have been obtained for the cane, and the people are more contented in their hard and continuous work under tropical suns than they have been for years.

"Very little industrial trouble has been recently experienced. Indeed, this applies to the whole of the Mackay district.

"The following are some of the 'densities' from cane sent to Eton Mill, supplied by Mr. Jackson:—

H.Q.426	17.1	(Plant crop 30 tons per acre)
Q.813	16.5	(Plant crop 35 tons per acre)
B.147	14.3	(Plant crop 30 tons per acre)
Q.855	14.3	(1st ratoons)
M.1900	13.1	(Plant crop 30 tons per acre)
B.208	16.1	(Plant crop 30 tons per acre)
N.G.15	16.5	(Plant crop 34 tons per acre)
Green Goru	14.1	(Plant crop 30 tons per acre)

"Other canes that are doing well for the growers in the Eton district are D.1135, Malagache, Q.903, and Q.970.

"The farmers here, generally speaking, are up to date in their methods, although deeper cultivation and green manuring are necessary. The growers met were anxious to receive and impart information.

"At Homebush the cane growth indicates a promising yield for next season. The cane has, so far, received no check from adverse weather conditions or disease. The cultivation is uniformly good, but the texture and producing powers of the soil would be increased by the use of vegetable manures. Lime is also required, as indicated by several tests made in a petri dish with litmus papers.

"Varieties doing well include H.Q.426, M.1900, Q.813, H.Q.285, 'Pompey' (a cane introduced by the C.S.R. Company), D.1135, and Malagache. As the growers here will be paid in the future on c.c.s., the canes most profitable would probably be 1900 Seedling, Q.813, and H.Q.285. In common with the previously mentioned canegrowing areas, Sarina is preparing for a heavy crushing. Right up the fertile flats on Plane Creek the cane is making a rapid growth, with a minimum of disease or insect parasite interference. This latter is largely due to care taken in plant selection—the only safe way to prevent the spread of insidious diseases such as 'gumming' and 'striped leaf disease.' The more careful a grower is in plant selection, the more likely he is to have a uniform density in the crushing.

"A considerable amount of fertilizing is being done on the Plane Creek areas. The farmers are discussing the question of going in more extensively for this in the future.

"Varieties showing good growth are D.1135, M.1900, H.Q.426, H.Q.285, and Q.813. All these canes are making weight rapidly. The cultivation is good on Plane Creek at present.

"North of Mackay the Farleigh country is showing the effect of the good growing weather. The different varieties are making cane satisfactorily, and the farmers anticipate a good season. Fertilizers (principally sulphate of ammonia applied between the light showers of rain that have been constantly falling) are being used to stimulate growth. Practically no disease is in evidence. Grubs were causing minor losses, but nothing to worry the farmer seriously. If the infestation increases through the year, the planting of D.1135 as a resistant variety would be advisable; also the trial of repellants, such as carbon bisulphide.

"Varieties doing well are Q.813, M.1900, M.187, M.87, H.Q.426, and H.Q.285. The mill is anticipating a big supply of cane next season from the Homebush areas, and the crushing for this plant should be a record one."

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

By E. W. BICK, Curator, Botanic Gardens.

Chrysanthemums should now be showing flower buds, and will benefit greatly with a little liquid manure once or twice a week. Towards end of month dahlias will be going down. Don't disturb them too soon. Should the ground be required they may be removed to a sheltered situation and heeled in to allow bulbs to ripen. This must be done gradually. Don't cut off tops when in a green state; it weakens the bulbs, often killing them. Some of the tree-flowering pæony dahlias, notably the Geisha, make very weakly bulbs that, if disturbed before being properly ripened, are apt to die out. Many dahlia-growers have lost the Geisha. It is rather a ticklish thing to winter. The safest plan is to allow it to remain in its flowering position until thoroughly ripened, or, if in a well-drained position, it may be left until next planting season.

Stocks may now be planted out. Like many other plants of this natural order (Cruciferæ—cabbage family), particularly cauliflower, they delight in newly cultivated ground. Garden beds that have been growing flowers continually for many years should have the soil renewed for these crops. Although it may have been frequently manured, a change of soil is necessary. This is often unobtainable except at very heavy expense. Another danger is that nut grass or some other obnoxious pest may be introduced in the new soil. A plant that should be more grown for soil renovation is the lupin. They may be obtained in many attractive colours, and the root action of lupins improves the soil, apparently by bacterial action, very much.

Another sowing of sweet pea seed should be made. The later planted ones often do well. The weather is cooler, growth stronger, and better flowers may be looked for.

This is a good time to plant bouvardias. These beautiful flowering plants can be obtained in many colours and varieties. They have not been grown much of recent years about Brisbane, but they are well worth a trial. A good, free soil, similar to that carnations are grown in, suits them best.

Seeds of winter and spring flowering annuals may still be sown, and plants of those from seeds planted should be planted out. Keep the soil well cultivated about newly planted annuals.

THE DAIRY HERD, QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GATTON.

MILKING RECORDS OF COWS FOR FEBRUARY, 1922.

Name of Cow.	Breed.	Date of Calving.	Total Milk.	Test.	Commercial Butter.	Remarks.
			lb.	%	lb.	
Prim	Holstein ...	6 Feb., 1922	1,369	3·8	58·01	
Lute	Ayrshire ...	8 Jan. ,,	1,081	4·2	52·36	
Lady Annette ...	,, ...	2 Jan. ,,	888	4·6	48·48	
College Evening Glow	Jersey ...	10 Oct., 1921	712	5·6	47·68	
College Cold Iron	,, ...	25 Jan., 1922	760	5·2	47·42	
Thyra of Myrtle-view	Ayrshire ...	31 July, 1921	1,035	4·0	46·24	
Lady Mitchell ...	Holstein ...	20 Dec. ,,	872	4·4	41·78	
Little Buttercup...	,, ...	12 Dec. ,,	1,174	3·4	43·23	
Glow VI.	Guernsey ...	28 Aug. ,,	566	6·2	41·64	
Auntie's Lass ...	Ayrshire ..	31 Oct. ,,	1,042	3·6	41·60	
Buttercup	Shorthorn...	28 Oct. ,,	981	3·8	41·49	
Hedges Madge ...	Holstein ...	15 Aug. ,,	802	4·4	41·18	
Iron Plate	Jersey ...	12 July ,,	780	4·4	41·16	
Magnet's Leda ...	,, ...	8 Feb., 1922	707	4·6	38·64	
College Promise ...	,, ...	6 Jan. ,,	673	4·6	36·98	
College Mignon ...	,, ...	7 July, 1921	679	4·6	36·59	
College Prima Donna	Holstein ...	17 Nov. ,,	730	4·2	35·82	
Skylark	Ayrshire ...	7 Feb., 1922	660	4·6	35·52	
College Bluebell ...	Jersey ...	22 Oct., 1921	762	4·1	34·96	
College St. Margaret	,, ...	25 Sept. ,,	634	4·6	34·77	
College Ma Petite	,, ...	5 Feb., 1922	539	5·2	32·77	
Lady Meg ...	Ayrshire ...	25 Jan. ,,	767	3·8	32·60	
Netherton Belle ...	,, ...	30 Nov., 1920	471	5·8	31·89	
Bellona	,, ...	26 June, 1921	697	4·0	31·18	
Nina	Shorthorn...	11 Nov., 1921	713	3·8	30·16	
Yarraview Village Belle	Guernsey ...	6 Aug. ,,	365	7·4	30·16	
Yarraview Snowdrop	,, ...	14 Oct. ,,	505	5·0	29·25	
Miss Betty ...	Jersey ...	7 July ,,	565	4·2	27·51	
Miss Security ...	Ayrshire ...	20 Aug. ,,	753	3·2	26·46	
College Wildflower	Jersey ...	10 Dec. ,,	622	3·6	24·92	
Sweet Meadows ...	,, ...	31 Oct. ,,	425	5·2	24·38	
College Meadow Sweet	Holstein ...	17 May ,,	487	4·2	24·29	
Gatton Glitter ...	Guernsey ...	9 Sept. ,,	546	3·8	23·28	
College Sunrise ...	Jersey ...	12 June ,,	445	4·4	23·23	
Rosine	Ayrshire ...	19 Jan. ,,	446	4·4	23·23	
Mistress May ...	,, ...	3 Dec. ,,	571	3·6	22·80	
Hedges Dutchmaid	Holstein ...	26 May ,,	399	4·6	22·08	
College Grandeur	Jersey ...	29 Dec., 1920	380	4·8	21·88	
Thornton Fairetta	,, ...	15 Mar. ,,	322	5·8	21·71	
Miss Fearless ...	Ayrshire ...	26 May ,,	452	4·0	20·19	
Lady Loch II. ...	,, ...	31 Jan., 1922	451	4·0	20·15	
Comedienne ...	Jersey ...	26 Nov., 1920	387	4·4	20·06	
Leda's Jessie ...	,, ...	11 Jan., 1922	318	5·4	20·04	

RAINFALL IN THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IN THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS, TOGETHER WITH TOTAL RAINFALLS DURING FEBRUARY, 1922 AND 1921, FOR COMPARISON.

Divisions and Stations.	Average Rainfall.		Total Rainfall.	
	Feb.	No. of Years' Records.	Feb., 1922.	Feb., 1921.
	In.		In.	In.
North Coast.				
Atherton	9·05	21	23·72	6·42
Cairns	15·04	40	22·03	18·34
Cardwell	16·60	50	41·29	10·34
Cooktown	13·42	46	7·52	7·28
Herberton	7·23	35	16·34	3·08
Ingham	15·26	30	35 78	13 35
Innisfail	21·51	41	44·09	20·29
Mossman	15 01	14	23·54	14·25
Townsville	11·61	51	13·31	1·38
Central Coast.				
Ayr	8·82	35	9·18	0·99
Bowen	8·55	51	12·94	3·88
Charters Towers ...	4·37	40	5·24	2·15
Mackay	11·54	51	11·11	15·81
Proserpine	10·58	19	19 53	15·25
St. Lawrence ...	7·93	51	12·50	4·86
South Coast.				
Biggenden	3·59	23	2·90	1·29
Bundaberg	6·04	39	9·60	0·72
Brisbane	6·35	71	7·55	1·07
Childers	5·77	27	8·17	0·62
Crohamhurst ...	13·85	30	19·68	3·82
Esk	5·37	35	6·19	0·42
Gayndah	4·09	51	1·85	0·88
Gympie	6·50	52	12·00	2·59
Glasshouse M'tains	7·96	14	16·69	2·16
Kilkivan	4·94	43	4·92	2·04
Maryborough ...	6·40	51	7·25	2·00
South Coast—continued:				
Nambour	8·34	26	21·26	3·93
Nanango	4·26	40	2·66	0·86
Rockhampton ...	7·40	35	11·73	3·58
Woodford	8·67	35	11·51	1·34
Darling Downs.				
Dalby	2·87	52	2·28	0·26
Emu Vale	2·26	26	1·33	1·69
Jimbour	2·83	34	2·23	0·14
Miles	2·64	37	2·53	1·17
Stanthorpe ...	3 31	49	1·41	1·97
Toowoomba ...	4·31	50	4·63	1·71
Warwick	3·12	57	1·77	1·71
Maranoa.				
Roma	3·07	48	1·68	0·36
State Farms, &c.				
Bungeworgorai ...	2·69	8	0·64	0·53
Gatton College ...	2·84	23	3·13	1·07
Gindie	2·68	23	8·96	0·44
Hermitage ...	2·35	16	1·71	1·50
Kairi	6·70	8	26·49	6·65
Sugar Experiment Station, Mackay	10·23	25	10·78	16·41
Warren	3·93	8	7·32	0·93

NOTE.—The averages have been compiled from official data during the periods indicated; but the totals for February this year, and for the same period of 1921, having been compiled from telegraphic reports, are subject to revision.

GEORGE E. BOND,
State Meteorologist.

General Notes.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE.

THE PREMIER'S REVIEW.

In the course of a statement made on 16th March to the Press the Premier, the Hon. E. G. Theodore, reviewed the very important bearing the Southern agitation for the decontrol of the sugar industry has upon State and industrial interests. The statement related to the agenda of the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Commonwealth about to take place at Hobart, at which it was proposed to table motions urging the decontrol of the sugar industry, and was made with a view to acquainting the general public with the actual position of the industry and the attitude of the Queensland Government, which is a party to the existing agreement.

The Paramount Importance of the Sugar Industry.

The points made by the Premier in the course of his statement are epitomised as follows:—

The maintenance of the sugar industry and of its reasonable prosperity is of paramount importance to the State.

Canegrowing is Queensland's chief agricultural industry and the greatest wage-paying industry in the State.

Its maintenance is therefore one vitally affecting the industrial fabric of the State.

The Queensland Government will strongly resist by every legitimate means any action which would result not only in injury to the farmers, workers, and others concerned, but in retarding the settlement of tropical and subtropical regions of the State.

The interests of fruitgrowers run on parallel lines with those of sugar producers.

The big manufacturing interests in the Southern States are using the fruitgrowers as pawns in their game of self-advantage.

It is noteworthy that the Queensland fruitgrower does not join in the Southern chorus against the Queensland sugar industry, for the reason that he knows the real position and realises that his interests and those of the sugar producer are common.

It appears remarkable that, whilst there is so much publicity regarding the need for land settlement within the Commonwealth, there is at the same time such bitter hostility in the South towards the only industry which can settle our Northern littoral.

£15,000,000 Involved.

It may be safely said that not less than £15,000,000 is involved in the sugar industry.

The value of raw sugar manufactured in Australia last season approximated £9,000,000, of which £6,000,000 was disbursed in wages.

At present deflated prices, decontrol would entail sending over £6,000,000 annually out of Australia for black-grown importations.

From a White Australia point of view it should be realised that there are 25,000 persons directly engaged in the industry and many of the towns of North Queensland are actually dependent upon sugar.

Probably some 100,000 persons are directly or indirectly dependent upon the industry.

Decontrol would seriously affect the welfare of some 4,000 Southern seasonal workers and coastal shipping.

The War Value.

The industry is entitled to some recognition for its war value in supplying at controlled rates raw material for the large export trade in jams, preserved milk, and other commodities built up during the war.

Its Land Settlement Value.

£1,000,000 has been invested in new sugar mills in the North in recent years. £40,000 has been expended to date on the Maria Creek Returned Soldiers' Settlement, which is solely a canegrowing area.

The Herbert River and Johnstone River have, as a result of the growth of the sugar industry, increased their population by 15,000, the greatest proportionate increase in rural Australia.

Our Northern lands can be stabilised only by wise and far-seeing methods, and one such method is that of a continuance of Commonwealth control and a renewal of the sugar agreement.

With such an agreement there is no reason why sugar should not be retailed at a lower price without endangering settlement in the North, the rural population in the South, or the White Australia ideal.

The reasons governing the control of the sugar industry in 1915 exist with undiminished force to-day.

[Apropos of the foregoing the Congress of Associated Chambers of Commerce at Hobart carried a motion favouring decontrol of the sugar industry by the Federal Government, the voting being: For decontrol 24, against 20. The Queensland delegates fought hard for the retention of Government control.—ED.]

SHOW DATES, 1922.

Show society secretaries are invited to forward for insertion in this list dates of forthcoming shows. Alterations of dates should be notified without delay.

Toowoomba: 4th and 6th April.
Sydney Royal: 10th to 19th April.
Chinchilla: 11th and 12th April.
Herberton: 17 and 18th April.
Miles: 19th April.
Nanango: 20th and 21st April.
Ascot: 22nd April.
Goondiwindi: 25th and 26th April.
Kingaroy: 26th and 27th April.

Longreach: 2nd and 3rd May.
Wondai: 3rd and 4th May.
Charleville: 3rd, 4th, and 5th May.
Toogoolawah: 4th and 5th May.
Grafton: 3rd to 6th May.
Blackall: 9th and 10th May.
Miriam Vale: 9th and 10th May.
Mitchell: 10th and 11th May.
Boonah: 10th and 11th May.
Murgon: 10th and 11th May.
Roma: 16th and 17th May.
Emerald: 17th and 18th May.
Kilkivan: 17th and 18th May.
Ipswich: 17th and 18th May.
Wallumbilla: 23rd and 24th May.
Maryborough: 23rd to 26th May.
Hughenden: 23rd and 24th May.
Springsure: 24th and 25th May.
Lowood: 25th and 26th May.
Childers and Beaudesert: 30th and 31st May.

Bundaberg: 1st to 3rd June.
Marburg: 2nd and 3rd June.
Brookfield: 3rd June.
Cairns: 7th and 8th June.
Gin Gin: 7th and 8th June.
Woombye N.C.A.H.S.: 7th and 8th June.
Mount Larcom: 9th and 10th June.
Gladstone: 15th and 16th June.
Rockhampton: 22nd, 23rd, and 24th June.
Esk: 28th and 29th June.
Mundubbera: 29th and 30th June.

Mackay: 30th June and 1st July.
Gayndah: 4th, 5th, and 6th July.
Nambour: 5th and 6th July.
Townsville: 5th and 6th July.
Charters Towers: 12th and 13th July.
Gatton: 12th and 13th July.
Proserpine: 13th, 14th, and 15th July.
Rosewood: 19th and 20th July.
Caboolture: 20th and 21st July.
Mount Gravatt: 22nd July.
Barcaldine: 25th and 26th July.
Crow's Nest: 26th July.
Pine Rivers: 28th and 29th July.
Wellington Point: 29th July.

Sandgate: 4th and 5th August.
Royal National: 7th to 12th August.
Belmont: 19th August.
Murrumbidgee: 22nd to 24th August.
Coorparoo: 26th August.
Kenilworth: 31st August.

Beenleigh: 1st and 2nd September.
Zillmere: 1st and 2nd September.
Gympie: 7th, 8th, and 9th September.
Wynnum: 9th September.
Imbil: 13th and 14th September.
Laidley: 13th and 14th September.
Sherwood: 16th September.
Rocklea: 23rd September.
Kilcoy: 28th and 29th September.

Esk Camp Drafting: 4th and 5th October.
Pomona, 4th and 5th October.
Southport: 6th October.
Enoggera: 7th October.

Farm and Garden Notes for May.

Field.—May is usually a busy month with the farmer—more particularly the wheatgrower, with whom the final preparation of his land prior to sowing is the one important operation. Late maturing varieties should be in the ground by the middle of the month at the latest.

Cleveland, intended primarily for feeding off, should be sown not later than the end of April.

The necessity of pickling all wheat intended for sowing purposes is again emphasised; and for general purposes, combined with economy in cost of material, the bluestone and lime solution holds its own. To those who desire an easier but somewhat more costly method of treatment, carbonate of copper at the rate of 1 oz. to the bushel and used in a dry form is suggested.

Potatoes, which in many districts are still somewhat backward, should have by this time received their final cultivation and hilling-up.

The sowing of prairie grass on scrub areas may be continued, but should be finished this month. This is an excellent winter grass, and does well in many parts of Southern Queensland.

Root crops, sowings of which were made during April, should now receive special attention in the matter of thinning out and keeping the soil surface well tilled to prevent undue evaporation of moisture.

Every effort should be made to secure sufficient supplies of fodder for stock during the winter, conserved either in the form of silage or hay.

Cotton crops are now fast approaching the final stages of harvesting. Growers are advised that all cotton in the Central District should be consigned to the Australian Cotton-growing Association, Rockhampton; whilst those in the Southern areas should consign their cotton to the Association at Whinstanes, Brisbane. All bags should be legibly branded with the owners' initials. In this matter the consignor is usually most careless, causing much delay and trouble in identifying parcels, which are frequently received minus the address labels.

Kitchen Garden.—Onions which have been planted in seed beds may now be transplanted. The ground should long since have been thoroughly cleaned, pulverised, and should be rolled previous to transplanting. Onions may still be sown in the open on clean and well-prepared ground. In favourable weather plant out cabbages, lettuce, leeks, beetroot, endive, &c. Sowings may also be made of all these as well as of peas, broad beans, kohl-rabi, radishes, spinach, turnips, parsnips, and carrots, and, where sufficiently large enough, thinned out. Dig and prepare beds for asparagus, using plenty of well-rotted farmyard manure.

Flower Garden.—Planting and transplanting may be carried out simultaneously during this month in showery weather; the plants will thus be fully established before the early frosts set in. Camellias and gardenias may be safely transplanted, also such soft-wooded plants as verbenas, petunias, pentstemons, heliotrope, &c. Cut back and prune all trees and shrubs ready for digging. Dahlia roots should be taken up and placed in a shady situation out of doors. Plant bulbs, such as anemones, ranunculus, snowflakes, freesias, ixias, watsonias, iris, narcissus, daffodils, &c. Tulips will not suit the Queensland climate, but hyacinths may be tried, although success is doubtful. All shades and screens may now be removed to enable the plants to get the full benefit of the air. Fork in the mulching, and keep the walks free from weeds. Clip hedges and edgings.

Orchard Notes for May.

THE COAST DISTRICTS.

In these notes for the past two months the attention of citrus-growers has been called to the extreme importance of their taking every possible care in gathering, handling, packing, and marketing, as the heavy losses that frequently occur in Southern shipments can only be prevented by so treating the fruit that it is not bruised or otherwise injured. It has been pointed out that no citrus fruit in which the skin is perfect and free from injury of any kind can become specked or blue-mouldy, as the fungus causing the trouble cannot obtain an entry into any fruit in which the skin is intact. Growers are, therefore, again warned of the risk they run by sending blemished fruit South, and are urged to exercise the greatest care in the handling of their fruit. No sounder advice has been given in these notes than that dealing with the gathering, handling, grading, packing, and marketing, not only of citrus, but of all other classes of fruit.

It is equally as important to know how to dispose of fruit to the best advantage as it is to know how to grow it. To say the least, it is very bad business to go to the expense of planting and caring for an orchard until it becomes productive and then neglect to take the necessary care in the marketing of the resultant crop. Main crop lemons should be cut and cured now, instead of being allowed to remain on the tree to develop thick skins and coarseness. As soon as the fruit shows the first signs of colour or is large enough to cure down to about from 2¼ to 2½ in. in diameter, it should be picked, care being taken to handle it very gently, as the secret of successfully curing and keeping this fruit is to see that the skin is not injured in the slightest, as even very slight injuries induce decay or specking. All citrus fruits must be sweated for at least seven days before being sent to the Southern States, as this permits of the majority of specky or fly-infested fruits being rejected. Citrus trees may be planted during this month, provided the land has been properly prepared and is in a fit state to receive them; if not, it is better to delay the planting till the land is right.

In planting, always see that the ground immediately below the base of the tree is well broken up, so that the main roots can penetrate deeply into the soil and not run on the surface. If this is done and the trees are planted so that the roots are given a downward tendency, and all roots tending to grow on or near the surface are removed, the tree will have a much better hold of the soil and, owing to the absence of purely surface roots, the land can be kept well and deeply-cultivated, and be thus able to retain an adequate supply of moisture in dry periods. Do not forget to prune well back when planting, or to cut away all broken roots.

All orchards, pineapple and banana plantations should be kept clean and free from all weed growth, and the soil should be well worked so as to retain moisture.

Custard apples will be coming forward in quantity, and the greatest care should be taken to see that they are properly graded and packed for the Southern markets, only one layer of one sized fruit being packed in the special cases provided for this fruit—cases which permit of the packing of fruit ranging from 4 to 6 in. in diameter in a single layer.

Slowly acting manures—such as meatworks manures—may be applied to orchards and vineyards during the month; and lime can be applied where necessary. Land intended for planting with pineapples or bananas during the coming spring can be got ready now, as, in the case of pineapples, it is a good plan to allow the land to lie fallow and sweeten for some time before planting; and, in the case of bananas, scrub fallen now gets a good chance of drying thoroughly before it is fired in spring, a good burn being thus secured.

THE GRANITE BELT, SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL TABLELANDS.

Clean up all orchards and vineyards, destroy all weeds and rubbish likely to harbour fruit pests of any kind, and keep the surface of the soil well stirred, so as to give birds and predaceous insects every chance to destroy any fruit fly pupæ which may be harbouring in the soil. If this is done, many pests that would otherwise find shelter and thus be able to live through the winter will be exposed to both natural enemies and cold.

Further, it is a good plan to clean up the land before pruning takes place as, if delayed till the pruning has been finished, the land is apt to dry out in a droughty season.

Pruning can be started on such varieties as have shed their leaves towards the end of the month, as it is a good plan to get this work through as early in the season as possible, instead of putting it off until spring. Early-pruned trees develop their buds better than those pruned late in the season. These remarks refer to trees—*not vines*, as the later vines are pruned in the season the better in the Granite Belt District, as late pruned vines stand a better chance to escape injury by late spring frosts.

All worthless, badly diseased, or worn-out trees that are no longer profitable, and which are not worth working over, should be taken out now and burnt, as they are only a menace and a harbour for pests.

Land intended for planting should be got ready as soon as possible, as, if ploughed up roughly and allowed to remain exposed to the winter frosts, it will become sweetened and the trees planted in it will come away much better than if set out in raw land. In any case the land must be properly prepared, for once the trees are planted it is a difficult matter to get the whole of the land as well worked as is possible prior to planting.

Slowly acting manures—such as Ground Island Phosphates or Basic Phosphates—may be applied to orchards and vineyards. They are not easily washed out of the soil, and will become slowly available and thus ready for the use of the trees or vines during their spring growth. Lime may also be applied where necessary.

This is a good time to attend to any drains—surface, cut-off, or underground. The two former should be cleaned out, and in the case of the latter all outlets should be examined to see that they are quite clear and that there is a good getaway for the drainage water. New drains may also be put in where required.

In the warmer parts citrus fruits will be ready for marketing, and lemons ready for cutting and curing. The same advice that has been given with respect to coast-grown fruit applies equally to that grown inland; and growers will find that careful handling of the fruit will pay them well. Lemons grown inland are, as a rule, of superior quality to those grown on the coast, but are apt to become too large if left too long on the trees, so it is advisable to cut and cure them as soon as they are ready. If this is done and they are properly handled, they may be kept for months, and will be equal to any that are imported.

If the weather is very dry, citrus trees may require an irrigation, but, unless the trees are showing signs of distress, it is better to depend on the cultivation of the soil to retain the necessary moisture, as the application of water now is apt to cause the fruit to become soft and puffy, so that it will not keep or carry well.

Land intended for new orchards should be got ready at once, as it is advisable to plant fairly early in the season in order that the trees may become established before the weather again becomes hot and dry. If the ground is dry at the time of planting, set the trees in the usual manner and cover the roots with a little soil; then give them a good soaking; and when the water has soaked into the soil, fill the hole with dry soil. This is much better than surface watering.

ASTRONOMICAL DATA FOR QUEENSLAND.

TIMES COMPUTED BY D. EGLINTON, F.R.A.S.

TIMES OF SUNRISE AND SUNSET.

AT WARWICK.

1922.	APRIL.		MAY.		JUNE.	
Date.	Rises.	Sets.	Rises.	Sets.	Rises.	Sets.
1	6·2	5·50	6·18	5·20	6·36	5·3
2	6·3	5·49	6·18	5·19	6·36	5·3
3	6·3	5·48	6·19	5·18	6·37	5·3
4	6·4	5·47	6·20	5·17	6 37	5·3
5	6·5	5·45	6·21	5·17	6·38	5·2
6	6·5	5·44	6·22	5·16	6·38	5·2
7	6·6	5·43	6·22	5·16	6·39	5·2
8	6·6	5·42	6·23	5·15	6·39	5·2
9	6·7	5·41	6·23	5·14	6·40	5·2
10	6·7	5·40	6·24	5·14	6·40	5·2
11	6·8	5·39	6 25	5·13	6·41	5·2
12	6·8	5·38	6·25	5·13	3·41	5·2
13	6·9	5 37	6·26	5·12	6·42	5·2
14	6·9	5·36	6·26	5·12	6·42	5·2
15	6·10	5·35	6·27	5·11	6·42	5·3
16	6·10	5·34	6·27	5·10	6·42	5·3
17	6·11	5·33	6·28	5·10	6·42	5·3
18	6·11	5·32	6·28	5·9	6·43	5·3
19	6·12	5·31	6·29	5·9	6·43	5·4
20	6·12	5·30	6·29	5·8	6·43	5·4
21	6·13	5·29	6·30	5·8	6·43	5·4
22	6·13	5·28	6·31	5·7	6·43	5·4
23	6·14	5·27	6·31	5·7	6·43	5·4
24	6·14	5·26	6·32	5·6	6·44	5·4
25	6·15	5·25	6·32	5·6	6·44	5·4
26	6·15	5·24	6·33	5·5	6·44	5·5
27	6·16	5·23	6·33	5·5	6·44	5·5
28	6·16	5·22	6·34	5·4	6·44	5·5
29	6·17	5·22	6·34	5·4	6·44	5·5
30	6·17	5·21	6·35	5·3	6·44	5·6
31	...	...	6.35	...	...	...

PHASES OF THE MOON, OCCULTATIONS, &c

The times stated are for Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania when "Summer Time" is not used.

		H. M.
5 April	☾ First Quarter	3 46 p.m.
12 „	○ Full Moon	6 44 a.m.
19 „	☽ Last Quarter	10 54 a.m.
27 „	● New Moon	3 4 p.m.

Perigee on 10th at 6·36 p.m.

Apogee on 22nd at 8·12 p.m.

The moon will pass, apparently, close to Jupiter on the 11th soon after sunset. If viewed from a higher southern latitude the moon will be seen to occult the planet.

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4 May	☾ First Quarter	10 56 p.m.
11 „	○ Full Moon	4 6 p.m.
19 „	☽ Last Quarter	4 17 a.m.
27 „	● New Moon	4 4 a.m.

Perigee on 8th at 5·12 p.m.

Apogee on 20th at 2 30 p.m.

On the 8th, between 11 and 12 p.m., the moon will be again very near, apparently, to Jupiter in the constellation Virgo, with the very interesting binary star—Gamma Virginis—slightly below them.

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3 June	☾ First Quarter	4 10 a.m.
10 „	○ Full Moon	1 38 a.m.
17 „	☽ Last Quarter	10 3 p.m.
25 „	● New Moon	2 20 p.m

Perigee on 4th at 5·12 a.m. and on 29th at 1·24 p.m.

Apogee on 17th at 9·18 a.m.

The moon will pass Saturn on the 4th at a quarter past three in the afternoon, and will enable this planet to be seen in the daytime if a small telescope or binoculars are directed about six times the moon's diameter northward. It will also pass Jupiter on the 5th a little before four o'clock in the morning, again in apparent proximity to Gamma Virginis. Jupiter will again be occulted in high southern latitudes.

Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn will be evening stars during these three months. Mars will be somewhat later in rising, but will be visible early in the evening during the latter part of the period.

For places west of Warwick and nearly in the same latitude, 28 degrees 12 minutes S., add 4 minutes for each degree of longitude. For example, at Inglewood, add 4 minutes to the times given above for Warwick; at Goondiwindi, add 8 minutes; at St. George, 14 minutes; at Cunnamulla, 25 minutes; at Thargomindah, 33 minutes; and at Oontoo, 43 minutes.

The moonlight nights for each month can best be ascertained by noticing the dates when the moon will be in the first quarter, and when full. In the latter case the moon will rise somewhat about the time the sun sets, and the moonlight then extends all through the night; when at the first quarter the moon rises somewhere about six hours before the sun sets, and it is moonlight only till about midnight. After full moon it will be later each evening before it rises, and when in the last quarter it will not generally rise till after midnight.

It must be remembered that the times referred to are only roughly approximate, as the relative positions of the sun and moon vary considerably.

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